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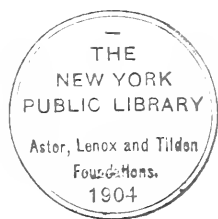


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IRM  
Mt. Morris, N.Y.







Wm. A. Hill

1794---1894.

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# CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION,

MT. MORRIS, N. Y.,

AUGUST 15, 1894.

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ADDRESS BY DR. M. H. MILLS.

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PARADE, SPORTS AND FIREWORKS.

—ALSO—

*LETTERS OF REMINISCENCE,  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, HISTORIES OF CHURCHES,  
AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.*

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COMPILED BY

REV. LEVI PARSONS, D. D.,

AND

SAMUEL L. ROCKFELLOW.

H. S.

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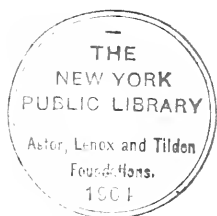
MT. MORRIS, N. Y.  
PRINTED AT THE OFFICE THE MT. MORRIS UNION  
BY J. C. DICKEY.  
1894.

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S. E. Wright, Photographer.

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT MORRIS.

# INTRODUCTION.

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THE observance of the one hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Mount Morris, on the 15th of August, 1894, proved to be an occasion of such general interest, as to call for some permanent record.

The large extra edition of the Mount Morris Union, containing a full account of the exercises, was soon exhausted, without supplying the demand.

The responses of many of the former residents of the town, now scattered in different parts of the country, were so hearty and refreshing, as to render the committee in charge inexcusable, had they failed to secure their publication.

As a result, the undersigned were appointed a committee, to compile a book, which should contain the addresses, the poem and other historical matter, which should render the work not only interesting to the reader, but valuable for future reference.

On the Sabbath immediately following the celebration, at a large union service in the evening, the Methodist and Presbyterian churches presented brief histories of their organizations; and the Baptist church did the same subsequently, at a similar service. These histories, together with the most of those of the other churches in the village and township, which have happily

been secured, will serve to keep many precious names in remembrance, and prevent many important facts from falling into oblivion.

Other organizations, and societies of various descriptions, have availed themselves of the offer which has been freely extended, to take a share in this work; and we desire to express our obligations to them, for the carefully prepared articles, which they have contributed.

A number of able writers have been very helpful in furnishing the biographical sketches, which we are confident will be heartily welcomed by all, and especially the older residents of the place.

Gladly would we have inserted many more had our space permitted; for this town has been rich in both women and men, of strong character and sterling qualities. We also deeply regret, that the names of not a few whose lives as identified with the interests of this township, have been pure, useful and truly honorable, fail to appear, for the simple reason, that no one writer, has pretended to give them all.

It must be borne in mind however, that as compilers, it was not expected, that we would write a history of the town, but rather arrange such material as might be contributed.

Nature has been very lavish of her gifts, to all those who have lived in this far famed valley of the Genesee, but perhaps to none more, than to those whose homes have been within the precincts of this beautiful village; and it is very cheering in preparing this volume, to know that so many, who once were boys and girls playing in these streets, have cherished such delightful recollections of their childhood homes. As we send them this book, we send with it our greetings; assuring them that Mount Morris, though a hundred years old, has lost none of her beauty,

and gives no sign of decay, numbering as she did by the last census over 2800 within the village corporation.

Our old houses are kept well painted and in good repair; our new houses are up with the times, in all the modern conveniences and adornments. Those cool gushing springs, on the hillside, are now distributed, by well appointed water works, throughout our corporation. Our streets are embowered with stately elms and maples; and at night seem almost like fairy land, as illuminated with electric lights.

Our stores and shops are doing a thriving business, rivalling in low prices their city competitors.

Our water power, with mills and factories, is just as efficient as ever; while our four railroads distribute their products, and place us in easy communication with the great markets of the world.

The old brick school house has given way to another, which is larger, more ornamental and every way better; and yet even this is not large enough for the crowds of children, over 530, which assemble in its rooms—children who are just as bright as those of the old school house; yes, and have just as much fun as others had twenty, thirty, forty or fifty years ago.

The social life of our place is still noted, as it was formerly, for its freedom from exclusiveness; while the religious life of the churches, is such, as to assure the stranger of a cordial welcome.

The sun shines upon the great plain, which is spread out toward the east, and lights up the distant hills with glory, just the same as it did a hundred years ago, or when you were children here.

As a village, we enter upon our second century, with no halting step; we feel strong, buoyant and vigorous, and are not without our plans for enlargement and improvement.

The Shaker farm of 1800 acres in our vicinity, which the

State of New York has recently purchased for the Craig Epileptic Colony, promises to be one of the most important charities of our times. This immense tract is now being laid out in avenues and streets, parks and gardens, with anticipated water works, electric plant, ponds and fountains, to meet the wants of a population of 3,000. This, with other projects, render us hopeful for the future of this entire section.

Our recent celebration, in all respects, exceeded our anticipations; but especially in the good feeling which it evoked, from both present and former residents; and we shall feel ten-fold paid for all our labor in publishing this book, if it shall promote the same generous spirit, and prove a bond of union to all those who love Mount Morris.

LEVI PARSONS,  
SAMUEL L. ROCKFELLOW.





MAIN STREET SOUTH FROM MRS. BRANCH'S.



## CORRESPONDENCE.

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The following correspondence explains the origin of the movement which resulted in the publication of this book :

MOUNT MORRIS, N. Y., June 27, 1894.

DR. M. H. MILLS :

DEAR SIR—As the present year brings us to the one hundredth anniversary of the settlement of our village, and as your honored father was the first to select this beautiful spot for his home, we feel that this centenary should be suitably celebrated ; and, therefore, it is our united request, that you, at such time and place as may hereafter be designated, deliver an address appropriate to the occasion.

O. D. Lake,  
H. P. Mills,  
W. Richmond,  
S. L. Rockfellow,  
H. E. Brown,  
W. H. Coy,

Geo. W. Phelps,  
H. H. Scoville,  
Levi Parsons,  
H. W. Miller,  
R. H. Moses,  
Ozro Clark.

HOMESTEAD PLACE, MOUNT MORRIS, N. Y., }  
July 2, 1894. }

MESSRS. O. D. LAKE, GEO. W. PHELPS, H. P. MILLS and others :

GENTLEMEN—Your note of the 27th of June inviting the undersigned to deliver an address on the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the settlement of our village is received. With a due appreciation of the honor conferred, I accept the duty imposed on me by my fellow citizens, and name August the 15th and the place Seymour opera house.

I remain very truly yours,

M. H. MILLS.

## CITIZENS MEETING.

On Monday evening, July 16th, 1894, in response to a call which had been issued, a large number of our citizens gathered at the Village Hall, to consider the matter of celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Mount Morris.

Orrin D. Lake, Esq., was called to the chair and Geo. S. Ellicott was chosen secretary.

Chairman Lake then stated the object of the meeting, and expressed himself as decidedly in favor of a proper observance of the event. He was followed by S. L. Rockfellow, Dr. Parsons and M. E. Gore, who also spoke strongly in favor of the celebration.

After some general discussion it was thought advisable to place the whole matter of arrangements in the hands of a committee of twelve, which the chairman was authorized to announce at a future time.

The names of the gentlemen selected were as follows: M. E. Gore, S. L. Rockfellow, G. M. Shull, Geo. S. Ellicott, Warren Royce, Thos. Hudson, M. J. Noonan, E. B. Osborne, W. Richmond, N. A. Seymour, J. M. Prophet and J. P. Olp.

These are among the most efficient, reliable and public spirited of our citizens, and the success of the celebration is largely attributable to their persevering efforts.

This general committee was subdivided as follows:

*Raising Funds*—M. E. Gore, T. Hudson and S. L. Rockfellow.

*Decorations*—W. Richmond, J. M. Prophet and S. L. Rockfellow.

*Sports*—N. A. Seymour, G. M. Shull and M. J. Noonan.

*Advertising*—G. M. Shull and G. S. Ellicott.

# ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

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## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE SETTLEMENT OF MOUNT MORRIS.

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A GLORIOUS DAY, LARGE CROWD, APPROPRIATE AND SUCCESSFUL  
CELEBRATION.

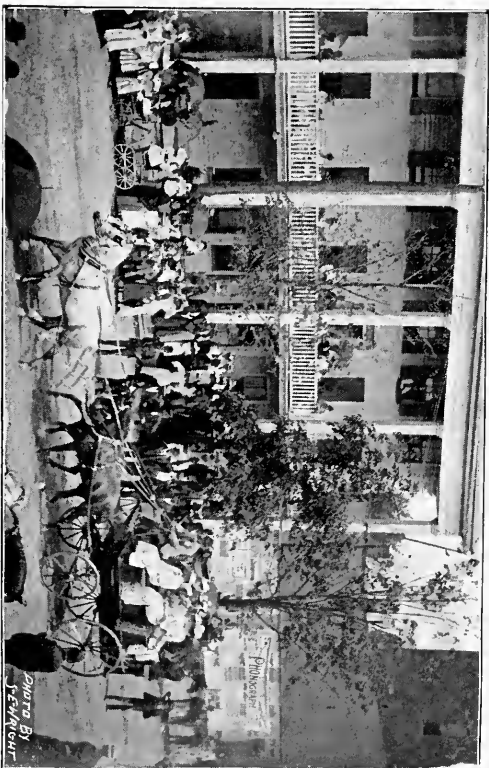
*[From the Mt Morris Union, Aug. 16th.]*

The celebration on Wednesday of the one hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Mount Morris was a most pronounced success in every respect. The weather was delightful; there was a large gathering of people, (the crowd being estimated at about five thousand,) the program, while being an exceptionally appropriate one to the occasion, also proved pleasing and satisfactory to the large numbers who had turned out to witness and take part in the festivities of the day, which will long be remembered by all.

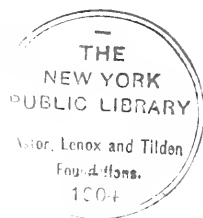
### THE PARADE.

The parade was formed on Main street at one o'clock, and its novel character created unusual interest on the part of the multitude of people that thronged the streets throughout the village. The first parade, representing 1794, was made up as follows: Rudgers and Safford's martial band; Masonic order; old fash-

ioned covered carriage, decorated with flags, containing Hon. Orrin D. Lake, President of the day; Dr. M. H. Mills, speaker, and Rev. Levi. Parsons, D. D., pastor of the Presbyterian church, chaplain. This carriage, the property of Sterling Case, is over half a century old. The doctor's "one-hoss shay" containing Mr. Jones, of Geneseo, dressed to represent a doctor of the pioneer days; this chaise is known to be over one hundred years old. Cal. Palmer, carrying sickel, and Levi Cothrell, carrying grain cradle; Mr. Cothrell is in his 78th year and is the oldest person in the town who was born and has always resided here. Ox team drawing an old-time wooden bull plow; the oxen belonged to and were driven by Joseph Guile, and David George held the plow; the plow is the property of Jas. H. McNair, of Sonyea, and is said to be one hundred years old; it was brought from Pennsylvania about ninety years ago. Ox team and cart, the property of M. W. Brooks, driven by Clarence Hamilton; in the cart were the first post-office boxes used in Mount Morris, also an old flax brake and a spinning wheel belonging to B. S. Coffin. Ox team and cart owned by Wm. A. Wadsworth, of Geneseo, and driven by Jacob Hasler; the cart was filled with grain and Reuben H. Moses was threshing it with a flail, stopping occasionally to take a pull at his jug. Sammy McNeilly on horseback with bag of grain going to mill as in olden times. Boy on horseback with mail bag. Indian chief on horse, in full Indian costume—bow, arrows, etc. George Mills and Frankie Swan on one horse, with saddle and pillion, dressed in pioneer costume, and going to their first party. Four-horse load driven by Ward Perine and C. A. Stevens, of Union Corners; the wagon was trimmed with bushes, representing a party on the way to an old-time political gathering. Old style buck-board platform wagon, owned and driven by J. C. French; it was loaded with a number of young ladies and in the rear end Mrs.



CENTENNIAL PARADE.



Betsey Ashton sat knitting and Mrs. W. C. Dunning spinning flax. This was the end of ye ancient portion of the parade.

Then came Seymour Opera Band, the G. A. R., Living Stream Hose Co., Active Hose Co., Hook & Ladder Co., Adriance modern binder and reaper driven by C. P. Olp, threshing machine driven by Alex Chichester, with Richard Sickles sitting on top holding banner inscribed with "1894," modern lumber wagon owned by A. M. Baker, modern sulky owned by M. D. Baker, modern light road wagon, pony and gold harness owned by Geo. Austen, F. S. Peer driving tandem accompanied by his daughter Miss Emily Peer, S. S. Howland driving four-in-hand tally-ho coach loaded with young ladies, citizens in carriages.

The line of march was north on Main to residence of Dr. Mills, counter marched to State, west on State to Eagle, south on Eagle to Murray, east on Murray to Stanley, south on Stanley to Elm, east on Elm to Main and north on Main to the place of starting.

### EXERCISES IN THE OPERA HOUSE.

As soon as the parade had disbanded the people crowded into the opera house until every available space was occupied. It was a grand gathering.

The service was introduced by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

The choir, under the direction of Miss Martha Hinman, pianist, was composed of Mrs. J. F. Connor, Miss Nellie Bingham, Miss Jessie Coy, Mrs. Frank Mills, Mrs. A. Wasson, Mrs. G. S. Ellicott, Mr. Howell, John White, Dr. A. E. Leach, Charles Gladding and Levi E. Parsons.

The President of the day then made the opening address.

Prayer was offered by the chaplain, which was followed with a song, "Long, Long Ago," by the choir.

In introducing Dr. M. H. Mills, the speaker of the day, chairman Lake congratulated the audience in having secured one who is so familiar with the past history of Mt. Morris, and a descendant of that noble, worthy and faithful pioneer of the town, General William A. Mills.

Dr. Mills gave a very interesting address which will be a valuable historical record.

At the close of Dr. Mills' remarks, on motion of Hon. William Hamilton, of Caledonia, a vote of thanks was extended to the Doctor for his very able address.

The "Swanee River" was sung by a quartette from the choir.

The following telegram was read :

CHICAGO, Ill., Aug. 15, 1894.

DR. M. H. MILLS:—I cherish with fondest recollection the many happy days of yore spent in Mt. Morris, the loveliest spot on God's green earth. My kindly greetings and highest regards to one and all assembled to-day celebrating its one hundredth anniversary.

JOHN R. GOODRICH.

Mr. S. L. Rockfellow announced that letters of reminiscence had been received from Henry T. Root, Providence, R. I. ; G. Wells Root, Hartford, Conn. ; Henry C. Wisner, Rochester ; Hugh Harding, Chicago ; John A. Rockfellow, Wilcox, Arizona ; Henry D. Ames, Chicago ; C. H. Ide, Pittsburgh, Pa. ; Mrs. Mary A. Hunt, Beloit, Wis. ; Mrs. Sarah M. Dunn, Rochester ; F. E. Hastings and wife, Little Rock, Ark., A. S. Martindale, Little Rock, Ark. ; Charles Hurlburt, Detroit ; Henry C. Brown, Brooklyn ; Mrs. Helen Ramsey Parker, Otisville, Mich. ; John R. Goodrich, Chicago. All the letters were of an interesting character, but owing to lack of time only the one from Mrs. Hunt was read.

The choir sang "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton," and the meeting was then brought to a close with the benediction, pronounced by Dr. Kittredge, of Geneseo.



Among the prominent and aged ladies and gentlemen on the stage, besides the chairman, speaker and clergymen of the village, were: Mrs. Mary Barney, Mrs. Lucius Scoville, Mrs. W. H. Spencer, Mrs. Elizabeth Hamling, Sterling Case, Geo. W. Phelps, Hiram P. Mills, Rev. Dr. Wood, D. N. Bacon, Ozro Clark, Richard Burke, H. W. Miller, A. Q. Van Middlesworth, Warren Royce, of Mt. Morris; James O. McClure, Warsaw, secretary of the Warsaw Historical Society; Maj. H. A. Dudley, Warsaw, president of the Warsaw Historical Society, and editor of the New Yorker; Arch McArthur, Chicago; E. L. Stanley, Dansville; H. M. Teasdale, Dansville; Joseph S. Avery, Esq., Clinton, N. Y.; S. Woodford, Towanda, Pa.; Rev. N. J. Conklin, Rochester, N. Y.; Dr. Kittredge, Geneseo; Hon. Wm. Hamilton, Caledonia; L. B. Proctor, Esq., Albany.

Letters of regret had been received from Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Clapp, South Deerfield, Mass.; Mr. and Mrs. C. H. May, Templeton, Mass.; Oren T. Sheldon, Cheyenne, Wyoming; Miss. L. Brooks, Watertown, N. Y.; Mrs. Martha N. Wygant, Fredonia, N. Y., and Dr. S. C. Parsons, Savannah, Ga., all former residents of Mount Morris: also from Rev. J. M. Carmichael, of Nunda, and Rev. F. Gutelius, of Moscow.

### SPORTS.

The old-fashioned game of ball by men of mature years was the first of the sports on the program. The ball ground selected was in front of the Winegar warehouse. S. L. Rockfellow and O. C. Matteson were the respective captains. Rockfellow chose Warren Royce, Peter VanDorn, W. Richmond, A. O. Dalrymple, John Creveling, Samuel Bergen and C. B. McNair. Matteson chose J. C. Witt, John Olp, Joseph Olp, Reuben H. Moses, Elijah Lincoln, Ira T. Hollister, Chas. Gladding. B. S. Coffin kept the score by cutting notches in a stick. Lack of

time and space prevents a detailed description of the game, suffice it to say, however, it afforded more amusement than any of the sports on the program. The game broke up in a jangle (of pleasantry, of course,) when the score stood 21 to 15 in favor of Mr. Matteson's side. The winners received pretty boutonnières, with gold pins, and the losing side the same with silver pins. The boutonnières were presented by Mrs. S. S. Howland.

The winners in the five-mile bicycle race were: Woodworth, 1st; Toms, 2nd; Marsh, 3rd; Mills, 4th.

Boys' two-mile bicycle race—Harry Ellicott, 1st; Ed Creveling, 2nd; Barney Beuerlein, 3rd.

Foot race—Humphrey, 1st; Sanders, 2nd.

Boys' foot race—Sammy McNeilly, 1st; McNair, 2nd.

Wheelbarrow race—Arthur L. Parsons, 1st; Small, 2nd; Clarence Outterson, 3rd.

Walking race—Geo. Brookins, 1st.

### THE MUSIC.

Excellent music was furnished by Seymour Opera Band of this village, and the marshal band of Perry Center, composed of C. W. Rudgers, fifer; John Rudgers and C. A. Safford, drummers; Frank Safford, base drum.

### THE DECORATIONS.

Many of the business places and residences were prettily decorated for the occasion, giving the village a gay and attractive appearance. The most elaborate decorations were on the Village Hall, the Phelps block, occupied by Wiltsie & Gore, the Mills block, and the Phelps Empire block.

### THE FIREWORKS.

The feature of the evening was the fireworks, and never before





HON. ORRIN D. LAKE.

has such a fine display been seen in Livingston county. They were set off in front of the Village Hall, under the direction of William Patton, who accomplished his work as only an expert could. Besides the numerous rockets, flower pots, colored lights, etc., there were a number of exceptionally pretty pieces producing most beautiful and amusing scenic effects. Main street was literally packed with people and all were charmed with the display from the beginning until the last piece, which said "Good Night," and was the closing of the festivities of the day.

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## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

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BY HON. ORRIN D. LAKE.

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FELLOW CITIZENS:—We are here to-day under peculiar and interesting circumstances. Standing as we do, at the close of the 100 years since the first settlement of this town by white inhabitants, it is quite natural we should turn our thoughts backward and in our imagination contrast the condition of the savage inhabitants of 100 years ago with those of the present, and see the transition from ignorance, barbarism and superstition to the present high state of civilization, religious advancement and material improvement. An equally marked change has been made in the face of the country—the entire town with

the exception of the flats, was a dense and unbroken forest only used as the hunting grounds of the Indians, where now are cultivated fields and palatial dwellings. For these and all other blessings it becomes us to lift our hearts in gratitude and thanksgiving to the Giver of all our mercies. And as we stand at the commencement of another century in looking forward all is uncertainty. Let us, while giving thanks for the past, supplicate the blessing of Heaven on the future.

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The Hon. Orrin D. Lake, President of the Day, is now in his ninetieth year, and yet so well preserved that he might be taken as a man of sixty. He was born in Kortright, Delaware Co., N. Y., Nov. 11th, 1805. In the year 1830 he came to this place with his father from Springport, Cayuga Co., and located to the east of the Ridge church, where for many years was his home, and which farm he still owns, though for the past twenty-five years he has been a resident of the southern part of our village.

He was twice elected to our State Legislature, in the years 1851 and 1852. For seven years he has been Supervisor of the town, and for twelve years Justice of the Peace.

He, of all others, is the one man to whom the people generally would accord the honor of being President of the Day.

His father was the Rev. Warner Lake, a Baptist clergyman who was ordained one hundred years ago. He preached twenty-two years at Harpersfield, Delaware Co., N. Y., fourteen years at Springport, Cayuga Co., and five years at the former Baptist church at the Ridge; where he died in 1848, at the age of 83, greatly respected and beloved.





DR. M. H. MILLS.



# HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

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BY DR. M. H. MILLS.

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The following is the full text of the admirable and interesting address of Dr. M. H. Mills at the centennial anniversary of the settlement of Mt. Morris:

FELLOW CITIZENS:—The occasion which brings us together to-day is unprecedented in the history of the village. It is an occasion which you, nor the speaker, or our children will live to see repeated. No words of mine can add to the interest or dignity of this event to Mt. Morris. I would be lacking in appreciation and courtesy if I failed to acknowledge the high honor conferred on me. Such an honor comes to men but once in a century.

We assemble this day to celebrate with fitting ceremonies the one hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Mt. Morris, and to offer thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father, who has dealt so bounteously with us in the past, and to offer our supplications for his continued blessing in the future. That God rules in the affairs of men is as certain as any truth of physical science. On the great creative power, which is from the beginning, eternal wisdom marshals the great procession of nations. Republics flourish and disappear, monarchies are lifted up and cast down.

Dynasties pass away like a tale which is told, but nothing is by chance, though men in their ignorance of causes may think so.

We have been passing through a period of centennials, formulating and putting in print their history for reference at the end of the next hundred years for an unborn generation. These celebrations tend to make our people wiser and better. It is hoped they will be held on every centennial occasion in our country. They will not only restore the love and patriotism of our fathers, but they will teach us the virtues of courage and patient endurance. This is a time of financial disturbance, and of business and labor disorders throughout the length and breadth of our land, and we have lost somewhat of our faith in regard to the future, and we speak in complaining terms of the evils of our day. But when we turn back and read again the history of the War of American Independence, and rehearse the financial distress of the country, and the sufferings of all classes of our citizens, we blush at our complaints.

In the successful voyage of the Viking ship across the Atlantic ocean last summer, resting on the waters of the great lake, which bathed the shores of the World's Fair, we have proof of the truthfulness of the Norse records, which tell us of five distinct voyages of the Norsemen to the New World. The first was made by Lief Erickson in the year 985. (A monument now standing in Boston perpetuates the memory of the great navigator of the unknown seas.) These records were written on parchment centuries ago. The exact translation of them will be found in the Viking age.

The land of the Vikings is full of the great past. Everywhere we see evidences of a seafaring and most warlike race. Roman coins, gold and silver, from the time of Augustus, 29 B. C., to 14 A. D., and coins of Roman patrician families antedating the Empire, tell how early these Norse tribes had intercourse with

the Roman world, and their graves on the shores of the Mediterranean bear silent witness of going there.

In 985 they discover the New World. The Americans who are descendants of the Vikings should take becoming pride in their ancestry. They were the original navigators of the unknown seas, before the compass opened the way across the ocean.

Before Columbus left Palos for his unknown voyage toward the setting sun in 1492, under the auspices of Spain, which gave his voyage a national reputation and interest in the Old World, the compass had been invented. By its unerring guide he discovered an unknown, but heard of continent to the Old World, which has made the name of Christopher Columbus immortal. May we not better say in the light of this age and the approaching twentieth century, Columbus made "two old countries" better acquainted?

Twenty years ago, in sinking a shaft in a gold mine in California, a human skull was found imbedded in a rock formation sixty feet below the surface. This extraordinary discovery was amply authenticated at the time, and created great interest among antiquarians and scientists in establishing the belief of man's great antiquity on the North American continent, co-equal perhaps to any portion of the inhabited world.

The following of the Pilgrim Fathers on the track of Columbus to our shores, introducing civilization and Christianity, and by other peoples fleeing from the tyranny of monarchies and caste ridden countries, it is no exaggeration for me to say, are the two great causes which civilization to-day owes to its advanced position throughout the world. The Pilgrim Fathers severed family ties and surrendered earthly home comforts, and hazarded the peril of navigating three thousand miles of ocean in a primitive seagoing vessel, to establish a new home in the wilds of America, among the aborigines, where they could en-

joy their religious and political views untrammelled by the tyranny they left behind them.

Through years of trials and tribulations they solved the problem of the equality of all men before the law, and the right to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. Thus we may say that the "germ" of the Declaration of American Independence first came to light in the little cabin of the Mayflower. All hail to the Pilgrim Fathers. In the fullness of time this germ of the Mayflower matured, and was born amid the din and clash of arms on the battlefield, has arisen, made by and for the people, which has triumphed over all opposition at home and abroad, and to-day stands pre-eminent in the triumphs of civil and religious liberty and popular self-government among the nations of the earth.

As early as the visit of the Norsemen in 985, the North American Indian was found a native upon our shores. How long he has been here no mortal man can tell. He dates back and beyond authentic history.\* The origin of the New York Indians, as handed down by oral tradition, is, they sprung out of the ground in a high hill in Onondaga county, N. Y., as is said "Pallas" in full armor, sprang from the head of Jupiter. This hill, or mountain, as the Indians termed it, they still venerate as the place of their birth. Hence their name, "Seneca Indians," interpreted signifies the "Great Hill people." ("Ge-

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\*Pictorial writings, engraved on massive boulders and on rock formations, rising above the ground in various parts of the United States and Mexico, is the oldest literature handed down to us, and tells of the occupancy of the North American Continent by man, prior to the invention of letters in Egypt, 1822 B. C. From that era hieroglyphic writing began to cease.

The North American Indians record of important events were narrated in pictorial writings. Analyzed and translated in our day by students of archology, hieroglyphic writings and symbols, go to establish the belief, that the Indian has been an inhabitant of the North American Continent, may be from the beginning, notwithstanding other races of peoples have been contemporary, whom they have survived.

nun-ge-wah people,") which is the definition of the word "Seneca."

When the first white man came among the Indians on our eastern shores, they invited him into their cabins and gave him venison to eat. They kindled fires to warm him if cold, and clothed him if naked, and refused pay for these hospitalities, little dreaming that some day he would return for these acts of kindness and tell them he wanted a small strip of land to spread his blanket on. They gave it to him and called him brother. When the white man became larger and stronger, with a preamble and resolution in his pocket, said to be the brain work of our New England fathers in that rigorous age, when in the name of their church and religion they put to death witches, and opposed warming churches and places of public worship with fires, seized the land of the Indians on general principles, and in something like the following words and language acquired title thereto :

Whereas, the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, therefore, be it resolved: First, that the land belongs to the Lord. Resolved, second, that we are the Lord's people, therefore, Resolved, third, that this land belongs to us. And they took it. The Indians are a race without books or literature. No pen of dusky bard upholds their rights, or condemns their wrongs. Their historian has always been a white man, giving a partial history of events as they occurred, doing the Indian characture injustice.

It is unnecessary for me on this occasion to repeat history, which you are presumed to be familiar with, and trace the titles of lands from the original owners to the white man in the Genesee valley, farther than to dwell on the Mt. Morris tract, upon which our village is located, and to state that the Indian title to

all lands in Western New York, excepting reservations, was extinguished in the treaty at Big-Tree in 1797.

In the year 1800 capitalists and land speculators from the east and from the south, came into this vicinity and made large purchases of land; but by reason of the Indian occupancy and the dissatisfaction of the Indians with the treaty of Great Britain and the colonies, the king having made no provision for his faithful allies, and the taking by the United States government so much land from them at the Fort Stanwix treaty, Rome, N. Y., in 1784, without compensation, in punishment for adhering to the cause of the king in the Revolutionary War, whom the Colonies had previously taught them to honor and obey, were wavering betwixt peace and war, the land purchasers did not return and establish homes and occupy their lands until after the second war of independence in 1812-15. From that era, the settlement and development of our locality and section of country, may be said to have commenced, although a few white settlers had come into what is now Livingston county as early as 1789-90.

The Mt. Morris tract is four miles square, instead of four square miles, and contains 10,240 acres of land. Some years ago, John Kennedy and sister, Seneca Indians from the Cataragus Reservation, paid a visit to the speaker.\* They brought with them the original deed of the Mt. Morris tract, executed by the warriors, sachems and chiefs of the Six Nations

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\*They claimed they were blood relations of Ebenezer Allan's wife Sally; that their title had not been extinguished, as the statute of limitation did not run against the Indian, and that the sale of the land by Ebenezer Allan to Robert Morris was illegal, and proposed to commence legal proceedings to compel the present owners and occupants of the land to settle with them, and asked my advice.

I discouraged legal proceedings. I produced history to prove the sale of the Mt. Morris tract by Ebenezer Allan to Robert Morris in 1793, which was confirmed and made valid four years later at the treaty of 1797 at Big-Tree, (Geneseo, N. Y.) which extinguished the Indian grant to Ebenezer Allan's wife Sally, and her heirs.

Mr. Kennedy returned home disappointed and wiser, and died three years later.

of Indians, at Newtown (Elmira) in 1791. I made a copy of this original deed which does not appear in any history, and have combined it in this address, as an interesting and valuable contribution to the history of Mt. Morris.

“To all people to whom these presents shall come, we, the Sachems, Chiefs and Warriors of the Seneca Nation of Indians, send greeting :

Whereas, By the custom of our nation from the earliest times of our forefathers to the present day, every person born of a Seneca woman has been and is considered one of the nation, and thence as having an equal right with every other person in the nation to lands belonging to the nation ; and,

Whereas, Ky-en-da-went-han, named in English “Sally,” one of our sisters, has had two daughters born of her body by our brother, “Jen-uh-sheo,” named in English, Ebenezer Allan, the name of the said daughters in English, Mary Allan and Chloe Allan ; and,

Whereas, Our said brother, Jen-uh-sheo, the father of the said Mary and Chloe, has expressed to us the desire to have the share of the Seneca lands to which the said Mary and Chloe (whom we consider our children) are entitled to have, set off to them in severality, that they may enjoy the same as their separate portions ; now know ye, that we, the sachems, chiefs and warriors of the Seneca Nation, in the name and by the authority of our whole nation, whom according to our ancient custom in like cases we represent, and in consideration of the rights of the said Mary and Chloe, as children and members of the Seneca Nation, and of our love and affection for them, do hereby set off and assign to them, the said Mary and Chloe, and to their heirs and assigns, a tract of land, on part of which the said Jen-uh-sheo, our brother, now dwells, upon the waters of the Jen-uh-sheo river (Genesec river) in the county of Ontario, in the

State of New York, bounded as follows: Beginning at an elm tree standing in the forks of the Jen-ush-sheo river (the boundry between our lands and the lands we sold to Oliver Phelps and Mr. Gorham), and running from thence due south four miles, thence due west four miles, thence due north four miles, thence due east four miles, until the line strikes the said elm tree, with the appurtenances. To have and to hold the said tract of land, with the appurtenances, to them, the said Mary Allan and Chloe Allan, and to their heirs and assigns, as tenants in common, to their use forever, provided, nevertheless, that we, the said sachems, chiefs and warriors, declare that it is our desire and intention, that from this day until the third day of March, in the year Anno Domini 1803, during which time both of the said Mary and Chloe will be minors, the said Ebenezer Allan, his executors and administrators, shall take care of, occupy and improve the whole track of land and receive the rents and profits thereof, without accounting to the children therefor, saving that therewith he, his executors and administrators, shall make provision for the descent and suitable maintenance, and for the instruction of the said Mary and Chloe, and cause them to be instructed in reading and writing, sewing and other useful arts, according to the custom of the white people, provided that if the said Mary shall marry before the age of twenty-one years, then immediately on her marriage the said Ebenezer, his executors or administrators, shall deliver to her the possession of her one-equal third part in quality and quantity of said tract of land. And if the said Chloe shall marry before the age of twenty-one years, then immediately on her marriage the said Ebenezer, his executors or administrators, shall deliver to her, the said Chloe, the possession of one-third part for quality and quantity of said tract of land. And thenceforward the said Mary and Chloe, respectively, and their representative heirs, executors, adminis-



trators and assigns, shall receive the rents and profits of their respective third parts of said tract of land. And the said Ebenezer Allan shall continue in the possession of the remaining third part of said tract of land, and receive the rents and profits thereof during his natural life, to his own use. And after his death, his present wife, Lucy, if she survive him, shall hold possession of the same third part, and receive the rents and profits thereof to her own use so long as she shall remain his widow, immediately after which the said Mary and Chloe, their heirs and assigns, shall receive and have the entire possession of the whole of said tract of land forever. And we, the sachems, chiefs and warriors, do further declare that the said tract of land so set off to them, the said Mary and Chloe, is and forever shall be in full of their share and interest of all the lands belonging to the said Nation, and of all claims of property of every kind, whether moneys or goods for lands sold or received as presents, which have been or shall be received by our Nation; provided further, and it is our meaning to reserve to the Indian families now dwelling on said tract of land the liberty of remaining there so long as they should think fit, with the liberty of planting so much corn as shall be necessary for their own use; provided, further, that our sister, the said "Ky-un-da-went-han," (named in English Sally) shall be entitled to comfortable and competent maintenance out of the rents and profits of said tract of land during her natural life, or as long as she remains unjoined to another companion.

In witness whereof, we, the sachems, chiefs of the Seneca Nation, according to the ancient custom of our nation, have hereunto set our hands and seals this fifteenth day of July, in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, and of the independence of the United States the sixteenth.

How-de-ye-was, the mark of X Farmer's Brother.

Shek-wi-un-unk, the mark of X Little Beard.

Kaen-do-wan-ya, the mark of X Big Tree.

Honey-san-Sprish, the mark of X Young King.

Oo-nu-got-ek-hon, the mark of X Fire in the Mountain.

So-ne-auh-to-wan, the mark of X Big Throat.

Koye-a-gay-anh, the mark of X Heap of Sayo.

Tio-ka-a-ya, the mark of X Little Billey.

Tain-dau-dash, the mark of X Black Chief.

Ken-nu-yoo-ni-gut, the mark of X Captain Samp.

Ken-no-ghau-kol-york, the mark of X Old House.

Ne-en-daw-ku-wan, the mark of X Great Tree.

Hah-jun-gunsh, the mark of X China Breast Plate.

Soo-nooh-shoo-wan, the mark of X Great House.

So-way-is, the mark of X Stump Foot.

Sachems in the right hand columns of seals, sealed and delivered in the presence of Ebenezer Bowman, Joseph Smith, Jasper Parish, Horatio Jones, Oliver Phelps, and by the chiefs underwritten, in the presence of us.

JACOB HART.

EBEN BOWMAN.

To-du-do-whang-nay, the mark of X Tommy Jenison.

Cy-asu-te, the mark of X Silver Breast Plate, with a cross.

So-go-uwa-to, the mark of X Red Jacket, or Keeper a Wake.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Newton, in the county of Tioga, in the State of New York, the 16th day of July, in the year 1791, and of the independence of the United States the sixteenth.

TIMOTHY PICKERING.

Commissioner on the part of the United States for Holding a Treaty with the Six Nations of Indians.”

The village of Mt. Morris is situated nearly in the geographical center of the above tract.

Robert Morris, from whom the village derives its name, must have known Allan did not possess the legal right to sell this tract of land. The sale was made in Philadelphia in 1793, receiving a nominal price for it in dry goods, Indian cloth and trinkets, which Allan brought to Mt. Morris, and opened a trading post, bartering his goods with the Indians for furs and pelts, and thus acquired the name of being the pioneer merchant on Allan's Hill. Allan was a white man, born and reared in New Jersey, came into the Genesee valley in 1780-82. He married a Seneca squaw by the name of Sally. (Bump's Island, now owned by H. P. Mills, Esq., was in early times called Sally's Bend.) She resided there and owned the land, it being a portion of the Mt. Morris tract. The Island was in the town of Leicester. In 1835 the river cut a new channel north of the island. In 1836 deepened and widened the channel and runs there to-day, leaving the island now in the town of Mt. Morris.

Allan was a tory and an ally of the Indians, and an enemy to his race. Fleeing from the crimes he committed in Pennsylvania, he joined the Indians in 1780 and committed fresh crimes on the banks of the Genesee. He acquired the name of Indian Allan from the atrocity of his crimes committed on the white race. His life and checkered career were closed on the river Thomas in Canada in 1814 among his Indian allies.\*

Robert Morris was a bold and fearless operator in business affairs. He evidently ran the risk to extinguish the title of the heirs of the Mt. Morris tract, which he accomplished four years later in the treaty at Big-Tree. From 1780, and during the

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\*Mary Jemison, (Deh-he-wa-mis,) the white woman, in her life by James E. Seaver, says: "Ebenezer Allan was much at my house with my son Thomas. He was always honorable, kind and even generous to me, but the history of his life is a tissue of crimes and baseness of the blackest dye. I have often heard him relate his inglorious feats, and confess crimes, the rehearsal of which made my blood curdle, as much accustomed as I was to hear of bloody and barbarous deeds."

ten years next following, he purchased about five million acres of land in the State of New York, the largest landed proprietor in the United States, and justly styled the "Baron of America." Robert Morris when thirteen years of age came with his father from England in 1747, landed in Philadelphia, engaged soon after in the counting house of Charles Willing, remained until 1754, when he became a partner of Mr. Willing's son. The house had vessels in the ocean trade with foreign countries, continued with great success until 1793. He was a delegate in the continental congress, and was a signer of the Declaration of Independence; was elected twice to Congress (1777-78.) and obtained from Congress the first charter of a bank in the United States in 1782, (Bank of North America.) By his advances and personal security he furnished Washington's army supplies in 1781 to the extent of \$1,400,000, without which the campaign would have been a failure. He became security for the loan of \$90,000 of the French funds to pay off the soldiers and enable Washington to make his campaign on Yorktown, the closing battle of the Revolutionary War, deciding the fate of the colonies and the future destiny of the United States. In 1793, Robert Morris was said to be the wealthiest man in America. In 1806 he died on the jail limits in Philadelphia for debt. Had it not been for an annuity of \$1,500 paid by the Holland Land Company to Mrs. Morris in consideration of the release of dower in lands purchased of her husband, he would have been without any known means of support."

Robert Morris was to the financial situation of the Revolutionary period, what Washington was to the military, and his name is an embellishment to the history of our country, and especially to Mt. Morris. Oliver Phelps also, of the Phelps and Gorham purchase, the largest landed proprietor in Western New York, died within the limits of the jail of Ontario county at

Canandaigua for debt. Such are some of the strange vicissitudes of human life.

The Bank of North America held an assignment of the title papers in the Mt. Morris tract as collateral security for advances and loans made to Robert Morris. It caused this tract to be surveyed in 1806 by Stephen Rogers. When surveyed it was called the Mt. Morris tract and described as lying in the town of Leicester, in the county of Genesee. In 1807 the Bank of North America sold this tract to John R. Murray, merchant, New York city, and Harriet Murray, his wife, William Ogden, of New York city, and Susan Ogden, his wife, John Trumbull, New York city, and James Wadsworth, Sr., and Naomi Wadsworth, his wife, of Genesee, N. Y., of whom each, including the Bank of North America, owned one-eighth, undivided part of the whole. The Squawkie Hill reservation of two square miles was reserved by the Indians at the treaty of Big-Tree in 1797, when the title of Robert Morris to this tract was made valid by extinguishing the Indian title, and their grant to the heirs of Ebenezer Allan.

I have been written to by a historical society, and sometimes asked from what circumstance Squawkie Hill derived its name. I have replied, the Senecas way back in remote times carried their conquests to the Mississippi river and the Carolinas, captured on the plains of Illinois, Sac and Fox Indians and brought them home prisoners. At a council at their metropolis, Little Beardstown, (Cuylerville, N. Y.) contrary to custom, they spared their lives and located them on a hill to live. The Senecas called them "Squawkie-haw Indians;" hence the name Squawkie Hill. Subsequently they intermarried with the Senecas and became a part of the tribe.

In 1810 the proprietors of the Mt. Morris tract made a partition of the land lying south of the Genesee river, except the

public square in Mt. Morris, bounded as follows: On the north by Trumbull street, on the east by Main street, on the south by Chapel street and on the west by Clinton street; also a certain lot and mill site, which were held in common. The tract was laid out in lots, numbering from 1 to 251 inclusive, which were subdivided into eight parts for distribution, except as above stated, Peter J. Monroe acting in behalf of the Bank of North America.

From 1794 to 1810 very few permanent white settlers located in Mt. Morris; Indian occupancy and the prevalence of ague and Genesee fever prevented. Among them were Jonathan Harris, Clark Cleveland, Isaac Baldwin, Adam Holslander, Simeon Kittle, Louis Mills, Grice Holland, Benedict Satterly, Isaac Powell, William McNair and family.

Adam Holslander made and furnished the rails for fencing the original enclosures in and around Mt. Morris for many years, excelling the lamented Lincoln in that business; was on the frontier in the war of 1812-15, and died in Mt. Morris, Mich., in 1872, aged 81 years.

James H. McNair came with his father, William McNair, in 1798 to Allan's Hill at 10 years of age. The family settled in Sonyea. James was in many respects a model man, a pattern of industry and integrity, a churchman and patriot; was on the frontier in the war of 1812-15; died July 8, 1874, 86 years of age.

From 1810 to 1820 settlers locating in Mt. Morris were more numerous. Elisha Parmlee, Messrs. Hopkins, Baldwins, Adino Bailey, Phineas Lake, David A. Miller, Allen Ayrault, Riley Scoville, Vincent Cothrell, Eli Lake, Messrs. Stanleys, Beaches, Rev. Elihu Mason, James Hosmer, John Starkweather, George Green, Asa Woodford, Dr. Abram Camp, Col. Demon, Richard Allen, Samuel Seymour and others.

Col. Ebenezer Demon was the pioneer manufacturer, (wool carding and cloth dressing), located in the suburbs of our village known as Demonsville. The speaker never wore any cloth manufactured elsewhere until 1837. The first store cloth I had for a coat was a bottle green. I have been partial to that color ever since. Deacon Asa Woodford was proprietor of a tannery in the same locality and a shoe factory and shoe store on Main street. Elisha Parmlee, first merchant; Allen Ayrault, his successor in 1817; Sleeper & Dean his successors in about 1824. Later on David A. Miller opened a dry goods store; was a prominent citizen and postmaster for a number of years. George Green, first tailor; Peter Peterson, first hatter; George W. Barney his successor. Reilly Scoville grew hemp between the high banks on the flats for several years; later moved into village; was supervisor for a number of years and hotel proprietor. His son, Henry H. Scoville, conducts the business where there has been a public house kept on the site of the Scoville House by the Baldwins and Scovilles (relatives) for the past eighty-one years, the oldest business place without change of business in the village. H. P. Mills, Esq., though not a pioneer settler in our village, is entitled to recognition on this occasion, on account of his long residence here, more than half a century, (fifty-seven years.) A prominent citizen, engaged in public life, resident engineer during the building of the Genesee Valley canal; president of the Genesee River National Bank for many years and is now, which has been conducted in the interests of the public and stockholders, aiding materially the business interests and prosperity of the village and surrounding country. From 1820 to 1830 Dr. Charles Bingham, Joseph Thompson, William Gay, George Sloat, Goodrich, Root, Dr. Hiram Hunt, Mr. Wadams, Stephen Summers, John Runyan, Isaac Thompson Deacon Weeks, Elija Thatcher, Deacon Conkey, George W. Barney,

Mr. Alma and others. In the town: Russell Sheldon, Ephriam Sharp, Sterling Case, Mr. Coe, Benjamin and William Begole, Joseph Couding, Aaron Adams, Jonathan Miller, Samuel Leonard, Chester Foote, David Sanger, Horatio Reed, Samuel Perkins, John Brown, John C. Jones, William Lemon, David H. Pierson, Richard W. Gates and others.

Dr. Abram Camp, first physician, Dr. Charles Bingham, his successor, in 1820, a man of unusual force of character, was learned in his profession. He met with a premature death from an injury received by a fall on the ice in Buck Run; died December 3, 1842, aged 58 years. Dr. Hiram Hunt moved into the village in 1824; was successful in his practice, and accumulated, for those times, a handsome property; later in life he met with reverses by business ventures outside of his profession; died October 8, 1853, aged 51 years.

William Haskall, commonly called "Bill Haskall," located in Mt. Morris in 1812. He was the first pettifogger in justice courts, possessed of native talents. If no law that he knew of hit the case in hand, he would make the law. He was illiterate and uncouth, and fond of wrestling and foot and horse racing sports; receded from civilization in 1835 and removed to the wilds of Michigan. Simeon Kittle, a similar character, familiarly called "Sim Kittle," also receded from civilization and followed his illustrious predecessor and opponent in legal lore in justice court, in 1836. George Hastings came to Mt. Morris in 1830. He was the first lawyer in the place and an honor to the bar of Livingston county. Was member of Congress and held other public offices of trust and honor. He died August 26, 1866. In 1830 settlers came from Cayuga county, N. Y., in considerable numbers, and for a few years later, and settled between Mt. Morris and Nunda, the country then an almost



unbroken wilderness; among them was the Hon. O. D. Lake, who is still living among us at 90 years of age.

From 1830 to 1850 was substantially the period which marked the prosperity and growth of Mt. Morris village. From 1818 to the completion of the Genesee Valley canal to Rochester, in 1840, our trade with Rochester was by river navigation and land carriage. There arrived at Geneseo, July 28, 1824, the steamboat, "Erie Canal," Capt. Bottle, the pioneer boat on the Genesee river, and there was great rejoicing among the citizens. The next steamer was the Genesee, a stern-wheel boat, carrying passengers and freight, with speed of eight or ten miles an hour. The distance was sixty-five miles by river from Geneseo to Rochester, and thirty miles by land carriage. After running two seasons, the enterprise was abandoned. River boating with "freight lakers," propelled by manual labor, continued at periods of high water in the river, as far as Geneseo and Mt. Morris, for many years subsequently. Intercourse between Mt. Morris, Leicester and Moscow was by ferry across the river in summer time and on the ice in winter, until about 1830, when a wooden toll-bridge spanned the river. Mr. Starr, of the firm of Hurlburt & Starr, dry goods merchants, purchased about this time in Albany and brought to our village, the first buggy with "cliptic" or steel springs. It was a novelty and much admired. Young ladies, as well as older citizens, were anxious to ride in it.

In 1793 the Williamsburg fair and Genesee races were inaugurated by Col. Williamson. The fair grounds and race track were on the flats on what is known as the "Shaker Farm," and near the former junction of the river and Canaseraga creek, about one mile from Williamsburg, and was the pioneer fair and race track in Western New York. The fair and races continued for several years, but owing to the class of people who patronized these fairs and races, they fell into disrepute and were

abandoned, retarding rather than aiding the settling of the country with a desirable class of inhabitants, to the very great disappointment of Col. Williamson, their founder. In 1818 the post-office was located, with George B. Manier, postmaster. Formerly the citizens of Mt. Morris went to Moscow once a week for their mail. In 1813 Mt. Morris contained four frame and twenty-two log houses. In 1817 there were a few machine shops and a small store kept by Allen Ayrault. In 1820, William Shull erected a grist mill on the site opposite the speaker's residence, below the roadway. The water power was obtained from Demonsville brook with water-wheel twenty feet in diameter. In 1835, the village was incorporated. In 1815 the first school taught west of the Genesee river, on Squawkie Hill, by Jedediah Hosford; Indian scholars. The Indians said "he taught their children books."

In 1811 there was standing near the Caledonia springs, in what is now Livingston county, N. Y., a wood colored house without porch, steeple, dome or tower to denote its use, which was occupied as a Scotch Presbyterian meeting house, and was at that time, the only building exclusively used for divine worship in the State of New York, west of the Genesee river.

In 1814 the Presbyterian church society organized. In 1822 the Methodist society organized. In 1833 the Protestant Episcopal church organized. In 1839 Baptist society constituted. For many years the log school house, divided into two compartments by a movable partition through the center, located on the public square, where the speaker obtained the rudiments of an education, was the only public building for holding religious services. Allen Ayrault, Gen. Mills and Deacon Stanly seated the school house for the purpose of holding church meetings. The Presbyterian church edifice was dedicated January, 1832. The Rev. Dr. L. Parsons, the present pastor, has officiated

in this church for thirty-seven years last past, which evinces the high respect in which he has been, and is still held.

The Stanleys, Hopkins, Camps, Beechers, Baldwins and a few others organized, in about 1814, the first religious society in Mt. Morris, although as early as 1810 there was a Methodist class, which, owing to the sparse population, deaths and removals, never materialized into an organized society. The place was unhealthy. Ague and Genesee fever were the prevailing diseases. The Mt. Morris of to-day is not surpassed in any section of our country for health and longevity of its citizens. From August 5, 1893, to July 25, 1894, there died seventeen citizens, the average age of whom was seventy-six years.

These pioneers, disseminating religious instruction among the citizens and teaching the great precepts of the Bible, improved the moral and social condition of the village, and opened the way for other religious denominations in due time to follow, to whom we, their descendants and successors, are indebted for the early development of Christianity in Mt. Morris. The Rev. Samuel Mills, Baptist minister, preached the first sermon in the place. Rev. Robert Chappel was the next to conduct religious services. Rev. Robert Hubbard was the first Presbyterian minister. Jesse Lee and Jonathan Hudson, Methodist ministers, frequently visited the place.

The true pioneer is the bearer of the banner of civilization, in the highest sense of that noble word. He comes not to conquer as a soldier, but as a man and a citizen. He bears no septer as an emblem of his power to command, for in the company of pioneers all are equal. He is followed by no military, for his mission is peace. He seeks a home and a permanent location for himself and family, and the generations who shall succeed him, where prosperity and happiness shall have their home.

The first newspaper published in the place was the Mt. Morris

Spectator, by Hugh Harding, January 1, 1834. The first machine to cut standing grain in the harvest fields, by horse power, was in 1835. McCormick was the inventor. The first trial of the machine was on the flats between the village and the river. The speaker was present. John A. Conway, a former citizen of Mt. Morris, aged 78 years, residing at Toledo, Ohio, writes August 2d and says: "It was a great sight to see the grain fall as fast as six men followed and bound and set up the shocks. I will never forget the crowds of people down to see it."

The Gen. Sullivan campaign into this valley in 1779, was a destructive blow on the Seneca Nation of Indians. They never subsequently occupied any of their places of abode east of the Genesee river. All of their property in the Genesee valley was burned and otherwise destroyed, leaving them powerless and without the means of subsistence. The Indians said "Washington was the Town Destroyer." "To this day, 1785, when his name is heard, our women look behind them and turn pale, and our children cling close to the necks of their mothers." This campaign of Gen. Sullivan's was made to chastise the Indians for committing the Wyoming and Cherry Valley massacres, which subsequent light and investigation have shown, were due to white men (British and Tories) dressed in disguise, not Indians.

The late John R. Murray, who settled here about sixty years ago, was a grand-son (not a son,) of John R. Murray, who was one of the original purchasers of the Mt. Morris tract of the Bank of North America. Mr. Murray inherited wealth, was a gentleman of high sense of honor and integrity. He erected a mansion on Murray Hill, where he resided in elegant style for many years, dispensing as a host lavishly, and entertaining handsomely. He has left a cherished memorial in the Episcopal

church of this village, which he erected at his own expense, donated on behalf of himself and wife to his church people. The church edifice, from its architectural beauty and cost of construction and ample grounds, is an ornament to the village. The mortal remains of himself and wife are interred in the church grounds, his memory revered and honored, not only by his church people, but by all our old citizens, and a wide circle of acquaintances in Western New York.

Mark Hopkins was the first land agent of the Mt. Morris tract, acting for Messrs. Murray, Ogden and Rogers. He came to Mt. Morris in 1811 in company with his father, Samuel Hopkins, Deacon Jesse Stanley, his two sons, Oliver and Luman. Samuel Hopkins died in Mt. Morris, March 19, 1818, at 70 years of age. He was the first one buried in the old cemetery, the grave being in the south-west corner. He was a worthy Christian man, and a gentleman of the old school. His son, Mark Hopkins, relinquished his land agency in 1817 and removed to Huron county, Ohio, and died at Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1831, aged 58 years. His brother Samuel Miles Hopkins was a lawyer and began his practice in New York city. He purchased the law library of Aaron Burr, and is said to have remarked "that Aaron Burr could always have a seat at his table." He purchased jointly with Benjamin W. Rogers a few years later the interest of the Bank of North America in the Mt. Morris tract. They also purchased three-fourths of the original Jones and Smith Indian grants in the town of Leicester the same year, which embraced the land on which Samuel Miles Hopkins located the village of Moscow in 1814. He built the Col. Cuyler mansion for his residence in 1813-14, being member of Congress at the time. In 1822 he reluctantly gave up his mansion, caused by financial reverses following the second war of American Independence, and moved to Albany to practice law, where he

achieved great distinction at the bar. In 1831 he moved to Geneva, N Y., and died there on the 7th of October, 1837, aged 65 years, honored and respected, his memory indellible, and a legacy of perpetual honor to his family and kinsmen.

The history of Mt. Morris cannot be written as it should be without liberal reference and description of the life and career of its first permanent settler and founder, Gen. William A. Mills. Knowing this, and appreciating the delicate position I would occupy, although honored by the invitation, I respectfully declined to deliver the centennial address in a note in reply to the citizens' letter inviting me, but recognizing my duty as a citizen to aid in the consummation of so worthy a public object, I have consented to render my assistance in the line of duty assigned to me by my fellow-citizens.

I stand before the audience as an historical speaker, and not as an eulogist of any relative, even though that relative be my honored father. Impartial history makes extended reference to him a duty demanded by the occasion, yet I would be wanting in sincerity if I deny the discharge of this duty is blended with filial affection. It is not our purpose on this occasion to extend our remarks to citizens who, coming to Mt. Morris to reside since 1830, have contributed so largely to its growth and prosperity, for their names already appear prominent in the history of our town and county, but simply to speak in as brief a manner as practicable of the pioneer settlers, and the part they bore in subduing the wilderness and preparing the way for those who were to succeed them in the occupancy of the country.

Rev. Samuel Mills, of Derby, Conn., a graduate of Yale College, moved with his family into the Genesee valley in 1790-92, died at Williamsburgh, N. Y., in 1794, often preaching in the open air and barns the great truths of the Gospel in an acceptable manner. Church services were frequently held by him in

the warehouse at Williamsburgh, the first settlement and little hamlet in Livingston county, situated midway between Mt. Morris and Geneseo, (the late Col. Abel's residence the site,) named after Col. Williamson, its founder, and agent of the Pultney estate; imported a colony from Hamburg, Germany, to start the the settlement. The rival settlements of Geneseo and Mt. Morris starting up, the little hamlet after a few years of struggle for the supremacy passed under a cloud and disappeared forever.

Rev. Samuel Mills' house took fire in the night, caused by a defective chimney flue, and burned with all his household effects, the family barely escaping. Shortly after he contracted the Genesee fever, from which he died. The remains were buried in the cemetery at Geneseo. He was held in high esteem and regard by the pioneer settlers, and his memory is endeared in the religious history of the Genesee valley. His family immediately returned to Derby, Conn., except his son, William A., who, thrown upon his own resources at seventeen years of age, came to Allan's Hill in 1794 to make a home for himself, though it was among the Indians. He erected a cabin on the brow of the tablelands overlooking the Genesee valley, (the site now occupied by the speaker's residence,) living alone for several years with Indian neighbors. Although commencing life without capital, and in the cloud of adversity, was destined to a successful career, renting lands on the flats on easy terms and employing the Indians to assist to cultivate them, coupled with raising stock, he added largely to his business and profits. When the Mt. Morris tract was opened for sale he purchased from time to time until he became the owner of eleven hundred acres of land, including several hundred acres on the flats opposite the village of Mt. Morris, paying \$30 per acre for his first purchase of land on the Genesee flats, and as high as \$60 per acre for his

last purchase. The timbered lands skirting the valley west of the Genesee river were offered to the first settlers at \$1.50 per acre; on the east side of the river at \$2.50 per acre. At Genesee the first settlers paid eight cents per acre for 2,000 acres of land; the same year fifty cents per acre for 4,000 acres more. The proprietors of the Mt. Morris tract put a price on these flat lands which kept them out of the market for seventeen years from the time Gen. Mills settled in Mt. Morris (Allan's Hill). His Indian name was So-no-jo-wa, interpreted signifies a big kettle, (generous), which would indicate his honest dealings with them and their esteem for him. To his grain raising, he added grazing on the Genesee and Gardou flats, becoming largely interested in that business. He rented lands on the Gardou flats of Mary Jemison, "the white woman," who was the owner of 17,927 acres of flats and uplands lying on both sides of the Genesee river, paying 50 cts. per acre rental per season for so much of the land on the flats as he occupied. You will remember Mary Jemison, of Indian captivity, was the first white person who lived in this valley among the aborigines, in 1759. Aside from Indian Allan, Lemuel B. Jennings, Capt. Noble, Horatio and John H. Jones followed, in 1789, and James and William Wadsworth in 1790.

In 1816, Mary Jemison sold all her reservation of lands, except two square miles on the west side of the river, to Michael Brooks and Jellus Clute. The Indians having by treaty in 1825 disposed of their reservations, and all gone from the valley, in 1827, Mary Jemison was lonesome and wished to join them. For this purpose the remaining two square miles she sold, in 1831, to Henry B. Gibson, of Canandaigua, and Jellus Clute, and removed to the Buffalo Creek reservation, where she died, September 19, 1833, aged 91 years. She lived among the Indians seventy-nine years, had two Indian husbands and a fam-



ily of eight children, and her testimony is that the Indians always treated her well.\* Upon leaving her home on the Genesee river, she came to the house of my father to bid him good-bye. They conversed mostly in the Indian tongue, although Mary Jemison could speak English, but more readily the Indian language. Though a boy, eleven years of age, I recollect to this day, distinctly, how she looked and appeared. Short in stature, under size, very round shouldered and bent forward, caused by toating luggage on her back supported by a strap across her forehead. Her complexion, once white, was tawney, her feet small and toed in; dressing in the costume of the Indian female, she resembled a squaw, except her hair and light colored eyes. Her cabin was the stranger's home; none were turned away hungry from her table. She was never known to make trouble among the Indians or among white people and Indians. She was a peacemaker and minded strictly to her own affairs.

From Gen. Mills' long residence among the Indians (31 years), he became much attached to them, and they to him. He never took advantage, deceived or cheated them in all his dealings with them. The result was he had their entire confidence, and never lost it. Even to this day his Indian name is familiar to the Indians on the reservations in New York west of Buffalo. Whilst they have to some extent lost the tradition, they know that it means a good white man, the Indians friend, who has long since gone to the "happy hunting ground," and is there waiting for them to join him.

William Tallchief, A-wa-wis-ha-dek-hah, (Burning Day,) chief of his tribe at Allan's Hill when the first white settlers came here to reside, was a loyal and trusty friend to them always. He was a chief of renown, and swayed the judgment and actions

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\*One of her husbands (Hi-oc-a-too,) was a noted war-chief; cruel and unrelenting in war; in domestic life, agreeable and kind.

of his tribe for good, and we can say, without fear of contradiction, that a good man has fallen when he died, and deserves on this occasion, more than a passing notice from an historian. His name appears to the Big-Tree and other treaties, and was otherwise connected with the business affairs of the Seneca Nation. Tallchief dined with Washington on the occasion of an Indian Embassy sent to Philadelphia to smoke the pipe of peace with the president. After a ceremonious dinner, a big pipe was lit and handed to Washington. The president took a whiff and passed the pipe to Tallchief, to whom he paid marked attention, and then to each in turn. Tallchief was favored by nature with more than ordinary grace of person. He removed from the Genesee river in 1827 to the Tonawanda reservation, where he died about 1833, aged 80 years. His remains were interred in the Indian Mission Chapel cemetery on the Buffalo Creek reservation by the side of Mary Jemison, the white woman. Asher Wright, missionary among the Indians, conducted the funeral services, followed by the Indian ceremonial rites at the graves of their honored dead. The chief's remains, several years ago, through the efforts of the speaker, were obtained for burial in our new cemetery, through a council of the Seneca Nation of Indians in the Cattaraugus reservation, after three years of negotiations, where it is hoped our citizens will follow the example of the State of Pennsylvania, which erected a monument to "Corn Planter" (John O'Bail), a Seneca chief of renown and friend of the white man, and erect a historical monument to the memory of Tallchief through State aid or otherwise, to perpetuate the memory of a distinguished red man, whose assistance and friendship to the pioneer settlers on Allan's Hill should not be forgotten, and justly entitle his memory to this recognition and respect from the white man.

Gen. Mills was on a committee of three, subscribing liberally

to build the first church in the village (Presbyterian), and donated the grounds so long as used for church purposes. He built the first house erected in the village by a white man. It was a block house, situated on State street, and opposite Mr. Moss' residence. He was married March 30, 1803, to Miss Susannah H. Harris, at her father's house at Tioga Point, Pa. Miss Harris came in 1802, all the way on horseback from her father's home, following an Indian trail through the woods and open clearings to visit her sister, who resided across the valley, about three miles from Mt. Morris (at a place subsequently known as the Hermitage), whose husband, Alpheus Harris, lay sick with the Genesee, or spotted fever, and required her assistance. While there she became acquainted with young Mills. "She was a most excellent Christian woman," the Historian Doty says, "and was highly esteemed for what she was in the church and out, for kindness and liberality to the poor and needy." She died April 6, 1840.\* Previous to his marriage, Gen. Mills had constructed a substantial log house on the site of his original cabin, in which he reared a large family, to which he built additions as required and resided there until the winter of 1838-39, when he moved into his elegant brick residence which he had just completed and which is now the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Susan H. Branch, who, by the way, is the oldest living citizen born in Mt. Morris. He was the first justice of the peace, supervisor for about twenty years, took an active part in the organization of the town in 1818, and of Livingston county in 1821; was a director in the Livingston County Bank, first bank in the county, \$100,000 capital, Allen Ayrault, president. It continued business twenty-five years, and it is no disparagement to banks now doing busi-

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\*Gen. Mills having received the military title of General, the Indians said, "his wife was a good woman and must have a name too," so they called her "Captain."

ness in the county, considering the change in the times and the competition in business, for me to say, that a bank better managed for the benefit of the stockholders and in the interest of the public, has not existed in the county since. Gen. Mills was a member of the committee to procure legislation for the construction of a railroad up through the valley in 1832. Built from Rochester to Avon in 1854, to Mt. Morris in 1859, to Dansville in 1871, forty years after celebrating the grant of the charter road built to Dansville, one of the earliest railroad franchises granted by the State, and one of the last roads to be built.

Gen. Mills was with Jesse Stanley, an incorporator of an act, Chp. 181, Laws of 1826, passed by the Legislature, April 13th, 1826, to construct a dam across the Genesee river at Mt. Morris, and went to Albany with a petition to aid in securing the necessary legislation. This enterprise secured a good water power for the village, which materially aided the growth and prosperity of this section, and to-day is of inestimable value.

The first dam erected across the river was a failure, a large portion of it went out. In the construction of the second dam in 1833, the citizens of Mt. Morris were asked to aid in its construction, which they did by surrendering up to the then proprietors of the Mt. Morris tract the public square of the village. In this enterprise Gen. Mills also bore a conspicuous part. The proprietors of the Mt. Morris tract, after the completion of the second dam, formally thanked Gen. Mills, and in recognition of his services, deeded him a village lot taken from the public square (the lot now occupied by the late Mr. Graham's dwelling). This is my best recollection of the occurrence of those important events, and may not be entirely free from inaccuracy. The speaker well remembers when the work of commencing the excavating of the mill race from the river to the village was

begun in 1827. The laborers were drawn up in line at the point where the stone arch bridge spans the race in the highway leading to the river. A goodly number of citizens were present. Jesse Stanley and Gen. Mills each made brief speeches, after which liquor was passed along the line of laborers, and those present. Gen. Mills removed the first shovel of earth, and Jesse Stanley the second. Then the word was given, "go ahead men," and the dirt flew from the laborers shovels, thus inaugurating the great undertaking of harnessing the Genesee river, and furnishing the village with ample water power.

Gen. Mills was the standing "aid" for the early settlers in our town who bought land, moved on to it, and could not keep up their payments. He never allowed any such to lose their land. The Hon. O. D. Lake, presiding officer of this meeting, who settled in our town in 1830, I refer to as one who can from his own personal knowledge corroborate the above statement. In 1816 when there was a famine in Allegany county, caused by that memorable cold summer and frosts, which destroyed vegetation, settlers from the Short Ttract and Canadier came to Mt. Morris for wheat and corn, bringing no money to pay for their supplies, for they had none. They called on Gen. Mills and laid their case before him. After listening to the tale of suffering of their families, and their promises to pay him in full some day, although strangers to him, he literally filled their sleighs (Historian Doty says,) with corn and other grain and pork, and sent them home rejoicing. In the following summer these men came from Allegany county and worked for him in harvest time and paid him in full. "The worthy poor and needy were never turned away from his door empty handed." (Mason's History of Livingston County.)

The Livingston County Agricultural Society was organized in 1841, Gen. William A. Mills, president. His military career

was quite as successful as his financial. He organized the first military company in what is now Livingston county. From this small beginning he rose to the rank of Major General of the militia of the State. His military district embraced Allegany, Livingston, Wyoming, Genesee, Monroe and Steuben counties. Gen. Mills held his fall meetings and parades in the principal villages of the respective counties. Military, after the close of the second war of independence, was, for a quarter of a century, very popular with all classes of American citizens. Some of the most prominent gentlemen in Western New York at different times were on his military staff.\*

Gen. Mills was prominently connected with all the measures of public utility which this section, and especially his locality, from the time he settled on Allan's Hill in 1794, to the time of his death in 1844. In the war of 1812-15 he went to the frontier, where he remained until the war closed, rendering his country valuable service. (Doty's History of Livingston County.)

He was born in New Bedford, May 27, 1777, and died suddenly April 7, 1844, of disease of the heart, while taking an afternoon nap, at the age of 67 years. He resided in our village half a century. He retained the warm respect and confidence of a wide circle of acquaintances down to the close of a long and useful life.

The late W. H. C. Hosmer, the "Bard of Avon," in a communication to the press containing a poem he composed and dedicated to the memory of the late Gen. William A. Mills, of Mt. Morris, Livingston county, N. Y., says: "The deceased

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\*The speaker recalls the names of Col. Reuben Sleeper, of Mt. Morris; Hon. Daniel D. Barnard, of Monroe, M. C.; Hon. Chas. J. Hill, of Rochester; Hon. Frank Granger, of Canandaigua, N. Y., Postmaster-General and member of the President's Cabinet.

was one of the patriarchs of the Genesee, or valley of pleasant waters, and early identified with its growth and history." We select a single stanza of the poem above referred to:

“He chose, regardless of the mob’s applause,  
Unspotted truth for guide;  
Loyal to freedom’s charter, and the laws;  
He lived and died.”

Our work is done, my fellow citizens. Henceforth those who take up the line of march where we are daily leaving it, must bear the burden and sustain the battles of our civilization and free republican institutions, and the perpetuity of our beloved country, which our forefathers sacrificed their lives and earthly happiness to create.

The pioneers and early settlers, denied themselves the comforts of life and happiness to subdue the wilderness and wilds of that country, that their children and the unborn generations who succeed them, may have pleasant places of abode. Surrounded by all the comforts and happiness incident to the enjoyments of this life, in the most charming and delightful sections of our whole country, the valley of the Genesee, “the terrestrial paradise of the Senecas,” which we, their descendants and successors, do fully cherish and appreciate.

# POEM.

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BY MRS. EUNICE H. HALL, OF ALLEGAN, MICHIGAN.

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[Mrs. Hall was the daughter of Adino Bailey, who came to Mount Morris about 1830, and died in 1843. His wife died in 1885. Their home on Main St. is still owned and occupied by their daughter, Miss Edna Bailey.]

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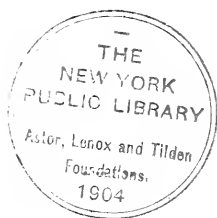
Pause in thy rapid flight, O Father Time,  
And turn the pages of the misty past,  
A hundred years ago.

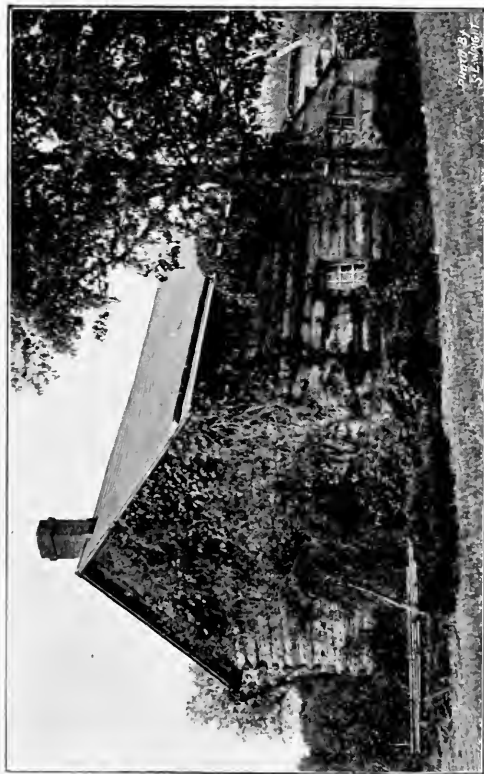
Call up again,  
In retrospect, it seems as in a magic glass,  
The voices long since silent on the hill  
“Where the forefathers of the hamlet sleep,”  
Of those whose deeds of sturdy enterprise  
In the dense wilderness wrought out their homes,  
And made the valley of the Genesee  
The garden of the west. Their hands of toil  
Laid low the forests, opened to the sun  
Malarious marshes, where disease and death  
Lurked and secured their victims; where are now  
Far-stretching, verdant fields and stately elms  
Crowned with the glory of a century,  
Although we miss the treasured Treaty tree,  
Demolished by a mighty thunder bolt.



They with the red men smoked the pipe of peace,  
And pleasant memories handed down to their posterity;  
Heroic men, and sainted women bearing patiently  
The hardships of the old-time pioneer,  
Sharing each other's joys and sorrows, then,  
With the sweet sympathy of one family.  
There in the wilderness with simple form  
Their little church was planted, from which sprung  
So many well-trained children, who have been  
True standard bearers in the later years,  
Widening their circle in the growing life  
Of the small settlement, till in other climes  
They make their mark among the noted men,  
The wide world better for their influence.  
Are those who thus have lived and passed away,  
Still cognizant of all Time's changes here;  
The mighty march of progress in these years,  
The wonders science has to us unveiled,  
The genius, art and culture of these times,  
Developed and attained by deep research  
In Nature's mysteries and resources vast,  
The sunlight painting pictures swift and true,  
News flashed like light from either hemisphere,  
Speech listened to a thousand miles away,  
The Iron horse annihilating space,  
(Though good old Deacon Stanley's prophecy  
Of rapid transit by old time canal  
Was deemed as only his strange vagary,)  
The steady march of Christianity,  
With power divine to teach and civilize  
All nations with its blessed influence?  
The world has moved; things common in our day

Were never dreamed a hundred years ago.  
We talk of good old times; they held the good  
Without the foresight for our evil days,  
When the great brotherhood of North and South  
Fought with their hands imbued in their own blood,  
Till the great nation's life was threatened sore,  
And Liberty wept over her martyred dead.  
Now tottering thrones; men's passions unrestrained,  
Law, order, and firm principle ignored;  
Rights striven for with flames and dynamite;  
The Magic City, wonder of the world,  
Vanished by vandal hands, so like  
"The baseless fabric of a splendid dream;"  
The struggle for high place, that would blot out  
The liberty so many heroes died to save;  
All these sad visions hidden from the eyes  
Of those who lived a hundred years ago.  
Home of my birth, Mt. Morris, thy green hills  
And lovely plains, fair basking in the sun,  
And wild and beautiful the Genesee,  
With scenery so picturesque and grand;  
Whether in placid flow, reflecting fair  
His rocky banks, flecked with their softening green,  
Or, rampant with the mighty, seething rush  
Of angry waters, O, I love you still.  
And scenes so beautiful are treasured now,  
By many a wanderer in other lands.  
The dear old place, a Mecca to us all;  
Old homes where friends have lived and passed away;  
Spires where we worshiped with them many a day;  
Peace and prosperity still over them abide,  
If the world lasts a hundred years to come.





OLD LOG HOUSE.

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S. E. Smith

## THE OLD LOG HOUSE.

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As a striking contrast between the old and the new, between primitive and modern architecture, we introduce a picture of "The Old Log House" and follow it with one of our Village Hall.

This Old Log House will require a few words of explanation.

While Pioneer Associations sometimes build log houses so as to present an object lesson of the older time to the present generation, our village can point to one of the original log houses, which has stood its ground against all innovations.

The late Levi L. Totten, whose word was authority for all matters of pioneer history, could not tell when or by whom that house was erected, and we have sought in vain for this information from other sources. It is located at the corner of Grove and Stanley streets, opposite the residence of J. M. Hastings, Esq. Whoever built it must have had an eye for the beautiful, for it occupies a commanding eminence overlooking a deep ravine along which runs a stream of living water. This house is in good repair and at present is owned and occupied by Mrs. Jane Cavanaugh.

This must have been one of the twenty-two log houses referred to by Rev. Darwin Chichester in his historical discourse delivered Feb. 1st, 1855, at the dedication of the Presbyterian church; in which he says: "Let us come forward to the picture of Mt. Morris in 1813. We will enter on what is now the plank road across the flats. Ascending the hill we pass what





VILLAGE HALL.





# LETTERS OF REMINISCENCE

ADDRESSED TO MR. S. L. ROCKFELLOW WHO CONDUCTED  
THE CORRESPONDENCE.

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FROM MRS. MARY HUNT,  
BELOIT, WISCONSIN.

I am reading with interest your arrangements for the Centennial Celebration at Mt. Morris which my old friend, the Union, tells me is to take place the 15th of August.

I am glad to know that the good people of Mt. Morris have it in their hearts to do honor to the occasion, which most certainly ought not to be overlooked. There are few places of more historic interest; few places of more abundant resources, and few equalled in beauty and variety of scenery. It has truly been called the "garden of the earth." Perhaps I am the oldest person living who can remember Mt. Morris (or Allan's Hill, as it was then called) as far back as 1810, which was the year my father, Jesse Wadhams, removed his family to the valley of the Genesee, at that time supposed to be about the end of the world. The novelty and the privations of pioneer life left strong impressions on my mind not easily forgotten. Memory recalls things that happened and people that lived, who, with their entire families, have long since passed away. In 1811, on

the same spot where now stand beautiful churches, fine residences with every evidence of taste and refinement, my father raised a splendid crop of wheat, sleighloads of which found a market in Connecticut on account of its superior excellence. The hill west was covered with hazlenuts, a bonanza for children. An occasional rattlesnake was found to enliven the scene, and Indian wigwams dotted hillside and valley. There was but one house with any pretence to size or convenience. It boasted a fireplace, stairs instead of a ladder, a brick oven which was used by the neighbors generally, and a well with a pump.

I knew the old white woman of the Genesee and was an occasional visitor at her house. I have eaten of her succotash which few cooks of the present day could equal. She was nice in all her surroundings and altogether a most wonderful woman. I think I witnessed at Squawkie Hill the Indian ceremony of sacrificing the white dog for the last time, as the practice was discontinued about this time. I knew Tall Chief. He was a splendid specimen of manhood—elegant in figure, courtly in manner, a natural gentleman. I have dined at the same table with the noted orator Red Jacket.

The war of 1812 made many changes. Companies were sent in defence of the border towns. We were not molested or much alarmed except on one occasion when an old squaw came with a secret which she would sell for money. The secret was that the village was to be sacked and burned and the inhabitants murdered. Some thought it a hoax, others that it was best to be prepared, so the women and children were gathered together in the block house and the men stood guard. The old squaw was found drunk the next day a little distance away. The favorite spot for ball games, for wrestling, running and leaping was on the flat near the river. The river was crossed either in canoes or by wading and later on by ferry boats. Under the shadow of

the splendid old elm tree which long since John R. Murray tried to save by fencing and care taking and which was finally shattered by lightning, stood an Indian wigwam occupied only by an old squaw who was said to be 115 years old. But I must stop this scribbling and ought to apologize for presuming so much on the kindness of an old friend. I would gladly be present at this Centennial gathering, but the great distance, together with my almost ninety-three years, prevents. When I took my pen I only thought to express my sympathy and interest and best wishes for the undertaking.

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FROM MRS. ELIZABETH M. HAMLING,

MOUNT MORRIS, N. Y.

Rev. Samuel J. Mills, my grand-father, came to the valley of the Genesee about 1792, from Bedford, Conn. After the death of his first wife, Martha Lewis, who was my grandmother, he married Mrs. Homphries, a wealthy lady.

His was the first sermon ever preached in Geneseo, and was delivered in a barn to an attentive audience. He located his home in Groveland, just across the Canaseraga creek, and the barn which he built with a stone foundation is still standing.

The company to which my grand-father belonged, owned at one time, just before the war of 1812, all the land between this town and Buffalo. The reverses of the war compelled a forced sale which resulted in the loss of most of this capital.

My father, the late Gen. Wm. A. Mills, was the fourth son, and at that time but seventeen years of age; and though so

young, still saw the necessity laid upon him to do something for himself. Working land on the west side of the valley, he was accustomed to leave the home in Groveland every Monday morning and cross the flats on a road constructed of logs, and return Saturday night; in the mean time doing the most of his own cooking. On one of these trips he was so unfortunate as to have the horse on which he was riding break one of his legs by slipping between the logs, thus losing the most of his first summer's gain.

As soon as the northern portion of the flats was for sale my father bought fifty acres, but erected his log house, in which our family for many years lived, upon the hill, just where is now the front yard of Dr. Mills' residence. In those days wheat could not be raised upon the flats, and as very little was brought here, people lived mostly on corn bread. After toiling on for several years in this way, there came to this town other settlers, among whom was a Mr. Alpheus Harris from Tioga Point, Pa., who remained not many years on account of the unhealthfulness of the place. During his short stay here his sister came to see him. This sister was a young lady thoroughly versed in all the mysteries of caring for a household. My father called one morning on Mr. Harris to borrow a hoe. He saw the sister for the first time. That was Susannah Harris, who afterward became Mrs. William A. Mills. The manner of the engagement was on this wise: as there could be no letters pass from this far west to the northern boundary of Pennsylvania, they must set the day for the wedding; which was decided to be just one year from their parting. So these two went to work; father to make the home comfortable, and have as much as possible to begin with, and dear mother went to her home and spun and wove, so that she had cloth, bedding, shoes and clothes enough for several years.

The year at last expired, and the day had come when she was to meet my father. She arose in the morning and walked out soon after sunrise, and, lo and behold, there was father coming on a shiney black horse. The truth was, the roads were too rough to ride in any way but on horse back. Wagons bringing goods would be drawn over low stumps and ravines as best they could get along. The first looking glass brought to this town was packed among the bedding of my mother.

My father was a very public spirited man. After assisting in building two grist mills on smaller streams, the thought occurred to him that we could utilize the river, if only we could get a grant from the state to build a dam and a raceway large enough for mill power. Accordingly he went by stage to Albany and presented the petition signed by the citizens of this town, and he obtained his request. The first dam was entirely swept away; and the second one had to be made on rock bottom.

There was true sympathy among the first settlers of this town. There is a record of nearly a hundred men who were helped by my father to money, from time to time, till they could live without hiring money. During the twenty years of his being the supervisor of the town, he transacted the business in the sitting room, where his desk always stood.

My father always felt cordial towards all preachers of the Gospel and took delight in helping the church. In those days the ministers' salary was raised by subscription and he headed the list. Among the many memories of my early home, are those of the deep interest which my father took in politics, as he would read aloud in the evening from the Albany Argus. The contending parties at that time were Whigg and Tories. He was thoroughly devoted to the cause of liberty.

As a general, he entered upon his duties with much zeal; and every year went the rounds of his district for general trainings.

FROM MRS. SARAH MOSES DUNN,  
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Hearing you are to have a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the settlement of Mt. Morris, I thought perhaps I might contribute something of interest, as I can remember back as far as 1836. My grand-father, Elisha Moses, came to Mt. Morris in 1815, and bought the Miller farm south of Buck Run, which was so named by the Indians as it was a favorite place for the deer to run. I well remember Indians living on the flats down by the Cashaqua creek. They used to stop at grandfather's, going to and from the village, to get a drink of water from the old well in the front yard. Grandmother often gave them a pan of milk and let me carry out some bread to them. They brought me bright red berries strung together to wear around my neck; and to-day I have no fear of an Indian and I always speak to them when I meet them. Where they lived are now all good farms.

I well remember when Dr. Childs lived where the the Misses McNair now live. They set out maple trees from Buck Run to the Case road which have all died excepting those in front of the house. There were no houses from there to Edgar Camp's, a yellow house, now standing near the railroad track, back of O. D. Lake's. Next came Mr. Percival's house where Mr. Ozro Clark now lives, the upright part being their home, where boarded the two Rogers brothers, New Yorkers, who were the means of having John R. Murray, Mr. Oliphant and Mr. Ogden, all wealthy men, come to Mt. Morris, and buy real estate and in many ways help the town. The next was a little brown house where Stephen Summers lived, about where Charles Bingham afterward lived. Then came the little red house where Mrs. Hopkins lived, from whom the street takes

its name. I think it stood just back of where Mr. Swan afterward lived. The next house was Mr. Hinman's on the corner of Main and Murray streets. There were no houses on the other side of the street except one occupied by Mr. Baldwin. On the corner was the Eagle Hotel, kept by Riley Scoville, father of the present genial landlord. It was rented a short time to a Mr. Green, but he did not understand hotel keeping as well as Mr. Scoville, who took it back again. On the opposite corner D. A. Miller kept a dry goods store; a little above was Mr. Roger's dry goods store, these two being the only dry goods stores in town.

I can remember when there were no churches—all met in a school house which stood where the Dr. Povall house now stands—the Presbyterians would have it one Sunday and the Methodists the next; when the Episcopalians commenced they had it in the afternoon.

I remember when Mrs. Mason lived where Norman A. Seymour now lives, she had part of the house and Jesse Peterson part. Mrs. Mason had many boarders, ladies who attended Miss Aurelia Moses' and Miss Mary B. Allen's school, among them was Judge Carrol's and Dr. Fitzhugh's daughters.

I don't remember any houses on Murray street but H. P. Mills', where Henry W. Miller's now is. Up the street farther lived Eli Lake. Where the Catholic church now stands was Deacon Conkey's wagon shop. I remember Judge Hastings, Mr. Barney and Mr. Coy, the latter kept the only shoe store here, and Mr. George Green who went hunting up Buck Run with his hounds and often called at my grandfather's.

## FROM HUGH HARDING,

CHICAGO, ILL.

I thank you for the invitation to attend the Centennial Celebration of Mount Morris, to be held August 15th. It would afford me the greatest pleasure to accept it, having been a resident of the village, and identified with all its interests for nearly three score years, but I must decline with great regret. It will be a pleasant and memorable occasion, many old residents will meet again, and recall the days of "Auld Lang Syne."

My business life was passed in Mt. Morris. My fellow citizens favored me with various offices which I ever tried to fill honorably and satisfactorily to my constituents. As I turn the pages of memory's book back to my early days, my pen falters as I note the once familiar forms that filled the pleasant homes, and trod the quiet walks of life in Mt. Morris.

How vividly I recall my first entrance within its precincts, in the year 1833, then a young man about eighteen years old. Much is said of the progressive spirit of the present day, but I felt progressive at that day as I came from Dansville with all my worldly goods, including a second-hand printing press that had formerly done duty for the "Albany Argus," prepared to do my best in helping on the march of civilization in the young village. As we, a driver, loaded wagon and myself, reached the village at evening, I called at the house of Widow Hopkins to inquire the distance to Mt. Morris. The old lady came to the door and replied, "why, you are in Mt. Morris now, only a short distance to the tavern." We drove on to a small tavern (as it was called in those days), that stood where the Wallace House now stands, kept by John Percival, where I found good accommodations for \$2.00 a week. Directly opposite was





*Hugh Harding*

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“Mechanics Hall,” here I rented a room and on the 4th day of January, 1834, issued the first number of the “Mount Morris Spectator,” the Pioneer newspaper of the village of Mt. Morris.

I will take a stroll through Main street as I remember it sixty years ago, starting where the Genesee House now stands, at a tavern kept by Mrs. Thomson, her son Bartel, being clerk; farther south Ezra Kinne had a cabinet shop; back from the street was the office and residence of Dr. Hiram Hunt, whose widow, over four score years of age, still lives with her daughter, Mrs. Royce, in Beloit, Wisconsin, and is as cheerful and entertaining as in those days. Here is the dry goods store of James H. Rogers & Co., where Wheeler Hinman was clerk; then we come to the tavern kept by Mr. Percival; next was the dry goods store of Lake & Canfield, Wells Lake, clerk; then comes the little tailor shop of George A. Green, the Nimrod of the village. In the lot where the Stout homestead now is, Benj. Campbell, who ran the grist-mill on the race, resided. The brothers Shubal and Abisha Green occupied the house now owned by Dr. Wells; just south was the low house of Esquire Spencer; back from the street, at the south end of the village, stood the house of John Sloat, who, in company with A. Keith, had a store on Main street. We now cross to the west side, and where Ozro Clark resides was the home of Dr. Camp; then comes the log house of Stephen Sumners, and the red frame house of Widow Hopkins. Hopkins street was a large wheat field. W. H. Whitney had a store near the Walker Hinman homestead; crossing Murray street we pass the carpenter shop of Capt. Bailey, and residence now occupied by his daughter, Edna; next was the residence of Col., R. Sleeper, and store, where Lucius Bingham was clerk; we pass on to Mechanics Hall, and in this mart of trade we find a carpenter shop, Esquire Spencer's grocery, I. Thurston's harness shop, Deacon Woodford's shoe

store, where Lorin Coy and Harlow Ruggles were employed many years, the "Spectator" office, and several other departments. The same locations seem to be perpetuated as hotels, for where "mine host" of the Eagle now greets the public, was then a hotel kept by his father, Riley Scoville. Crossing Chapel street we arrive at David A. Miller's store and post office, Totten's store and other structures. On State street, near where the residence of J. B. Bacon stands, was the house of Abner Dean, and his store, the best brick building in town. The first home of Gen. Mills stood near where the house of your esteemed speaker for this occasion now stands, and was a prominent landmark.

In the early days of the "Spectator," Eugene Hunt, nephew of Dr. Hunt, was employed in the office for several years. He left and took a position in the Citizens Bank, New York, which he held over forty years, so faithfully performing his duties, that now, crippled by an accident, he receives a pension from the bank, and resides with family friends in a pleasant suburban home near this city.

Judge Hastings was our only lawyer at that time. R. P. Wisner came later.

Misses Flavia and Aurelia Moses were school teachers that two generations well remember.

The only church edifices were the Methodist, on Chapel street, and the Presbyterian, on state street.

Of the early settlers I met on the streets, I recall Gen. Mills, Dr. Bingham, Elder Lake, O. D. Lake, Dea. Jesse Stanley, Dea. Alvah Beach, James. H. McNair, Mr. Moses, Russel Sheldon, Mr. Case, Wm. Begole, Jacob Chilson, Dea. Reuben Weeks, H. H. Gladding, Geo. W. Barney, Grice Holland, Adam Holtslander, Vint. Cothrell, A. Arnold, Halsey and Alfred Hubbard, Dr. Childs, H. Skillin, Dea. James Conkey.

Nearly all have gone to their last homes but their descendants are scattered over our whole country. Alfred Hubbard's two daughters—Mrs. Lucina Telie and Mrs. Cornelia Phelps—reside in a pleasant home in this city.

As years passed by we had pleasant business and official relations with many who came later.

John R. Murray who came at an early day, and laid out and decorated the beautiful grounds and built a fine house, since burned, on Murray Hill, was a kind and generous gentleman, unostentatiously helping the poor, and with his wealth doing much to promote the prosperity of the village. The Episcopal church is a memorial of his liberality, and in the grounds he, with his estimable wife "sleep their last sleep."

We are indebted to his father for the water-power below the village, and a fine grist mill for many years in charge of Dea. M. Allen and his son-in-law, Robert E. Weeks. We recall the patriarchal figure of Dea. Allen as one who ever seemed to bring a blessing.

Norman Seymour was a well know citizen, remarkably genial, kind and intelligent. He was regarded as authority in historical matters. Dr. Parsons, in his funeral sermon, speaks of him as writer and speaker, gaining reputation at home and abroad. He died in 1892.

One jovial, familiar form on our streets was Farmer Abel, as he said of himself "was born and bred a Presbyterian, but in his daily walk and conversation was an Episcopalian." He was well known as a politician throughout the State.

McNeil Seymour, one of our best read lawyers, was a worthy member of the State Legislature, and an efficient representative of his town, in the county board.

Abraham Wigg, a very popular and worthy citizen, did much for the growth of the village. I recollect one peculiarity of

his, which was that he always carried his business papers in his hat.

Jared P. Dodge was another able representative in the county board for a number of years. With such supervisors as Seymour, Wigg and Dodge the interests of the town at the county seat were closely guarded.

There are many others in my thoughts, that I would recall to you, who have borne their parts in life well and honorably, but time and space will not permit. There was Dr. Ames, Dr. Joslyn, John P. Gale, Geo. S. Whitney, Augustus Conkey, Samuel Seymour, David Sutphen, Arch. McArthur, Rev. W. A. Runner, Dea. E. M. Winegar, James B. Bacon Sylvester Richmond, H. E. Brown, Dr. G. W. Branch, and Thos. J. Gamble, well known as an attorney and magistrate.

Myself and wife left Mt. Morris about four years ago, coming here where our daughters, Mrs. Kate Taylor, and Mrs. Mary H. Rogers reside, leaving our sons, William and Frederic, following the trade of their father, at Rochester, and Charles at the old "Mt. Morris Book Store."

My next birthday I shall have attained the age of four score years, but the flight of time seems to have dealt kindly with me, as I am still able to tend my little garden and travel about the streets of this bustling, hurrying city, enjoying much that is new and interesting.

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FROM MARY JOSLYN SMITH,

BUFFALO, N. Y.

Though the world is full of books, and if all things were to be written, there would not be room enough to contain them,

still I know that there will be a welcome for the forth-coming History of Mount Morris.

The work that you and Dr. Parsons are doing in compiling the book is but another of the many free will offerings which you have made to your home village.

Why should not the story of many things in the past, as well as present of Mt. Morris, be preserved in the printed page?

It is beautiful for situation, with the mountains round about, and the river flowing by it; so fertile is the valley that the harvest never fails; I have long loved to think of it as a "Happy Valley."

Then, too, men and women have lived in Mt. Morris who have made their lives sublime by doing the work just at their hands, and doing it so faithfully. I think of their self sacrifice for the good of the village, for the good of schools, and of the people generally, and I see an almost perfect exemplification of self-surrender; and of a long list of names I would write: "Loving, working praying, giving."

But they have not all gone hence who have lived for others. I love to think of Dr. Parsons as still helping the Mt. Morris people, as they make their faith chapter, their "eleventh of Hebrews." All these forty years he has not belonged to one church or one set of people. Starting with "minus self" he has known how to help make equations in public affairs and how to help solve them. But aside from his wisdom and interest in all that pertains to good citizenship, he has held and moved the people by something deeper and more lasting than all worldly interests. By his tender sympathy with those in trouble, he has become priest and friend. He has been able to so represent the Lord whom he serves, that he has taught the people, even in these times of great sorrow, that "when the burnt offering began, the song of the Lord began also," and that

above and out out of it all, they can "sing praises with gladness," "and bow their heads and worship." And many ask, who will bury our dead, when Dr. Parsons is not here? Though he has gone up and down the streets, a familiar friend and figure to all, of him it can be written: "The light that shines brightest at home, shines farthest out," and so his counsel is sought as trustee of college and of Divinity school, and he has crossed the ocean to sit in General Assembly, but when he came back it was to watch his village flock as tenderly as though he had no other care.

So the new book would be very incomplete to me with no notice of Dr. Parsons' work. I do not see why we should wait until after our friends die to talk over the good they do. You remember the story of Burns' mother, do you not? when some one took her to see the monument raised to her son's memory, and she, remembering how in his life he had wanted bread, said: "He asked for bread and ye gie him a stein."

If Mt. Morris has sometimes been said to have been a noted place for things to happen, it has been because so many of the people have been such positive characters, and of such intense natures.

The busy people, and not the men and women of leisure, have thus far made the history of Mt. Morris; what its future will be remains for the younger people to say. I often wonder, with their rich legacy and golden opportunities, what they are going to make of themselves, and thereby what of their village?

From inspiration received in Mt. Morris, men and women all over the world are doing their part in the world's work. A certain number in the old times "staid by the stuff," but they just as truly need to be faithful to their trust.

The city on the hill, the city of the dead, does not hold our loved ones; the shrine is there, but they serve in a happier



valley, while the influence of their lives still remains in the village, and reaches far out beyond it.

The future history of our much loved village surely depends upon the spirit that is in the people now.

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FROM H. C. WISNER,

NEW YORK CITY.

I am in receipt of your cordial invitation to attend the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the settlement of Mount Morris, on Wednesday, August 15th.

I am very grateful for your kind consideration and deem myself very unfortunate in not being able to meet and rejoice with you. I can imagine the "glow of happiness" that will be felt when you meet and "grasp the hands" of friends and neighbors who return after long years of absence to join with you in the happy reunion. May all your anticipations be fully realized. May it be a day of great joy and happiness to all.

Mount Morris—the place of my birth; the home of my childhood; the sacred spot where my kindred lie—will always be loved and venerated by me.

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FROM MR. AND MRS. F. E. HASTINGS,

AND A. S. MARTINDALE,

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.

We desire to acknowledge your kind remembrance of us in the invitation to attend the Mt. Morris Centennial Celebration.

We very much regret not being able to attend, for the old home will always be lovingly remembered by us.

We feel sure the exercises will be interesting, especially the ball game.

Would you not be pleased to have us in your collection of antiquities, for we are all growing old?

On August 15th our thoughts will be often with you.

[Mr. A. S. Martindale, who was a resident of Mt. Morris for many years, has reached the advanced age of 87 years.]

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### FROM G. WELLS ROOT,

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

I compromised myself somewhat in saying that I would possibly give you some reminiscences of my early life at Mt. Morris.

I was born in April, 1826, in Oneida Co. When I was a boy about seven years of age my father went to Mt. Morris, and went to work for Deacon Conkey, one of the best and purest souls that ever lived. As I was about seven years old at this time I must have gone to Mt. Morris in 1833. Things at that time were pretty rough there. The public school house, which was situated, I think, near where the Episcopal church is to-day, was a very long school house with a big fire place in each end; half of the building was for the girls and the other half for the boys. I have personally seen the boys go out of the school house, being sent out to obtain fire wood, and rip the clapboards right off the building; they made it a rule to clean out every teacher who took the school. They finally had a butcher who lived up near the Baptist church, about four miles west; he was

a short, thick set, muscular fellow weighing about two hundred pounds. I have seen him come into the village Monday morning with a bundle of hickory withes over his shoulder, which he ran through the fire to make them more elastic, and they had it hot and tight; inkstands and various other things were used in the fight, so that the girls were glad to get out, but this butcher held the fort.

My father and mother thought I had better be sent back to Oneida county to my grandfather and go to school there, so I went back and stayed there two years and attended school, with various experiences. They had two great farms and were splendid livers, but they had also a grind stone where they thought a boy like myself could develop his muscles, and an old mare to ride and plow corn, etc., etc.

After two years I returned to Mt. Morris. Among the principal people that I remember at that time who were residents of Mt. Morris, are John Vernam, Henry Swan, David A. Miller, Hiram P. Mills, Hugh Harding (publisher of the village paper, the Union, which I have taken for fifty-one years), Reuben Sleeper, and one Mr. Rogers, who, I think, kept a hardware store, Norman Seymour, Jas. R. Bond, Dr. Charles Bingham, who was the father of Charles L. and Lucius C., Lester Phelps, George Hastings, Gen. Mills, father of the present Dr. Mills, Loren Coy, Geo. W. Barney, the hatter<sup>m</sup> (called Brother Barney), George Green, the tailor, Deacon Conkey, George Whitney, Dr. Thomas, Rev. E. Mason, the Pendletons (one of the sons was considered handsomer than any lady), Mr. Beach, who kept the hotel on the corner of Main street, Uncle Riley Scoville, of the Scoville House, and I can not remember who was the proprietor of the other. Then there was Harl Ruggles, a man by the name of Marsh in the trunk business, one of the Mosleys kept an oyster saloon, and J. B. Bacon a grocery store,

Mr. Wisner, who was then quite a prominent lawyer, the Stanleys, who lived a little west, Nic. Lake, Shed Holland the blacksmith, John R. Murray, one of the most refined men that was ever in Western New York, the Thompsons, Philo and William, Mershons and Stilwells. All these men had peculiarities. Reuben Sleeper was a great authority in regard to counterfeit money; his judgment was considered the end of the law so far as our village was concerned. I well remember Dr. Bingham and his sons, Lucius and Charles, and several daughters. Charlie Bingham was the best friend I ever had in my life; we were boys together. The old Dr. was shrewd and a bright, genial man; he knew how to manage boys A No. 1. Somewhere over the river he had some land which he cultivated. I remember well when Charlie and myself went over with him; he would tell us a Baron Munchausen story where a man fired a gun and the ramrod went through the river strung with so many fish, and killed so many deer, and various other things, and finally struck a bee tree that was thoroughly loaded with honey, etc. Then he would say to us cubs, "when these potatoes are all picked up I will tell you another," and the potatoes were picked up pretty rapidly. His wife, Mrs. Bingham, was the aunt of Governor Bulkley, of our state, and Lieutenant-Governor Bulkley, and they both spoke of her with the highest regard as Aunt Bingham. John Vernam was a splendid man, whole-souled, and I have been told that his generosity and winning ways converted the young men of the town from Whigs to Democrats. Henry Swan—no nobler man to me ever lived on the face of this earth. When I was a boy he requested me to go with him as clerk, and I did so quite young. After staying a year and a half I felt that I should go to school more. I told him candidly about it; he said he was sorry to have me leave him, but he felt that I was correct. The next year and a half

from that time I did not do anything but dig to get the best preliminary education I could.

As soon as I got to the point where I was willing to take another boy's place, David A. Miller & Sons wished me to come with them. The old man, David A. Miller, was a splendid specimen of a Virginia gentleman. I have listened to him many a time when he gave a description of running the line for the United States government between Louisiana and Texas—a straight line clear through swamps and everything else—which took a good many months. I boarded with his son Henry, who married, I think, a Miss Townsend, of Bath. She was a very refined lady. I slept in the store with David; he was a bright, smart fellow. The history of these gentlemen you know probably better than I do.

My school experiences after I returned from Oneida county were various. I went to school on Main street, kept by a man named Skidmore; he was a very nice teacher. Vint Cothrell was about six feet high and very large for his age. The teacher could not make him learn his A B C's. Vint would lie down on the bench and take a good nap; but Skidmore was a good fellow. Then I went to a private school kept by a gentleman named Spencer lower down the street. This Mr. Spencer afterwards became a clergyman and quite prominent in Utica. I think he married a Hopkins; Hopkins street, at any rate, was named after the Hopkins family.

By this time they had built a very fine public school house and one R. F. Hawes was called to teach. He was a perfect enthusiast. He boarded with my father and mother and he and I had a room together. He was so full of mathematics you could not help getting good instruction, not only in school hours but at home, and when we went to our room. This Mr. Hawes was a member of the Presbyterian church, and a fine gentle-

man. I suppose no one stood higher than he did in Mount Morris. There was a private school a little west of the Presbyterian church taught by a man named Wright. It had a tower and a bell, and that bell used to ring about five or ten minutes before nine o'clock every morning. One morning it was discovered located on an out-house of the public school. Our Mr. Wright was terribly exasperated, and Mr. Hawes apparently more so. He called up every scholar in the school and made him hold up his hands and affirm that he knew nothing about it. There was a gangway down the street that ran from Deacon Conkey's shop to where Mr. Rogers lived. In this gangway was an old cannon. It went off one night and broke pretty nearly all the windows in the neighborhood, so much so that the village authorities offered quite a reward, for those times, to find out who the culprit was. After several years this Mr. Hawes was in New York as chief clerk in the commissary department in the war. President Lincoln proclaimed a Fast Day; Hawes thought he would take a little rest, so he took the steamer up to New Haven. He remembered that I lived in Hartford and came up and spent the afternoon with me. He referred to those two operations of the bell and cannon, and said he and another young man moved the bell, and he and another young man loaded the cannon; they put a fuse in it which they calculated would last about fifteen minutes, and when the cannon went off they were eating oysters in Mosley's saloon. He opened up a good many other things which had been mysteries. My wife and I never enjoyed a visit more than we did from him; the poor fellow has gone over the river.

Riley Scoville kept the Eagle Tavern, and always had a great wood fire in the winter. In some way I was one of the boys he would let in on the outskirts of the crowd to listen to old Luther C. Peek, the lawyer of Nunda. He, Scoville, had a son that

we called "Old Gent." This son had a tame bear, sent him from Michigan, which he put in one of the stalls, and we boys were in the habit of visiting this cub of a bear. At my last visit I was glad to get out with nothing left on me but my shirt and not much of that; the fellow had got a little cross. His other sons you know all about. I understand that one of them is one of the most popular hotel men in the valley. There were the Mershons who have really gone out of my sight. I did not know much about them only by hearsay for several years afterwards. Mr. Phelps, before spoken of, had a son we all called Ben. He was a big, good-hearted fellow, but not looked upon in Mt. Morris as anything wonderful; I think he clerked in a hardware store. He finally developed into one of the smartest railroad contractors in the country, and it is said he made a very large fortune. I have met him several times in New York; at that time he was living in Watertown. I have always felt that if Abe Vernam had lived he would have made quite a mark. John you know all about. With us boys he was like a great Newfoundland dog; he would do anything for us and a great many times too much. I think F. C. Mills was chief engineer of the Genesee Valley canal. When the contracts were let I was clerk for Henry Swan, and he got quite a section and sublet it, and I assume that it was profitable, and my idea is that Hiram P. Mills, John Vernam and others were in the same line, but I do not remember particularly about it. We boys looked upon Bill Acker, and his splendid four-horse team, which he drove to Geneseo and back twice a day, as the biggest man in the place, but when the canal was finished and the packet boats on, the Captain of a packet boat with his three horses, ranked away up in the estimation of the young men. John R. Murray I looked upon as one of the most refined gentlemen I ever knew. I have understood that he made everybody wall off but himself.

I had the pleasure of seeing him here in Hartford once or twice in my early life. Norman Seymour was a nervous, energetic, pure, clean merchant. I have the impression that he sized me up once to have me go with him, but he made up his mind I had not sufficient brains to fill the bill. You all know about Lorin Coy and his bass viol in the choir, and also that when the minister was absent at the Presbyterian church, Geo. Hastings read a sermon.

To leave the village for a moment, there was Dr. Fitzhugh, who lived some three or four miles south. I think, in my day, he was looked upon as one of the most refined, kindly gentlemen that ever came into the village. There was Judge Carroll, and then when you went further there were the Cuylers, Wilmerdings and Clutes.

At the foot of the green resided Col. Hosford, whose daughter married a cousin of mine, James S. Tryon, at that time of Rochester; he afterwards was called to the head of the First National Bank in Hartford, and Mrs. Tryon and myself have spent a great many hours in talking up the old history of Mt. Morris. Her brother became an eminent professor of Harvard and died leaving a very large estate. Mr. Tryon's son is one of the head men in the laboratory now. Mrs. Tryon passed over the river quite a number of years ago.

Hugh Harding apparently thought quite well of me. I know a large stock of paper came to Mt. Morris to be sold at auction. Harding gave me the pointers to make certain bids and I made quite a little purchase for him. Then there was Wallace, the jeweler. I do not know of any one who did not like him. In the back room of his store I was permitted to look on and see him play euchre. I got the whole theory of the game by seeing Wallace and his friends play. When I came east nothing was spoken of euchre, but in a few years it spread all over New



England and was considered one of the finest games of cards, outside of whist, until they introduced the blank card in euchre and called for your partner's best.

There is one very pleasant thought that I wish to speak of particularly, that is Walker Hinman. From a boy to my last visit to Mt. Morris several years ago, his garden was the finest that I saw in the whole country. I used to delight to stop and have a chat with him. Dr. Thomas, our old family physician, carried me through several severe fits of sickness, and how sad it was to me when his eyes were shot out. Then there was Eli Lake, who lived next to my father on Hopkins street; he married a Mrs. Mather, of Avon, for his second wife. By the second marriage they had two children, a son and daughter. The son died and the daughter became the wife of my brother Henry.

Without being personally conversant with the matter, it seems to me that in Mr. Howland you have a great acquisition for the Genesee Valley. I know a great deal of him, through others who do know him, and he is spoken of in the highest terms, and I judge from what is published in the village paper that you appreciate him. In one of the magazines some time ago, illustrating a fox hunt, I read the article with intense interest, but when it came to a cut or picture representing a horse going through the Canaseraga creek not over his fetlocks, I had to lay down the magazine and have a good laugh. I said to myself that the creek had filled up wonderfully; that in my day he would have had to go a long way around or taken from ten to fifteen feet of mud and water. At the same time artists are permitted to take liberties as long as they can give a good idea of a thing.

Hiram P. Mills' son, William, was a very special friend of mine. I have called frequently at the college at Schenectady

to see him. I had it in my heart that he was going to make a prominent man, but he died suddenly. His brothers have faded out of my memory, just as the Swan boys have, except William. Col. Hurlburt was the leading constable and a very active man.

When David A. Miller & Sons sold out their business to a party in Rochester, I was determined to come east. My father's family were all from the east, Hartford, and my mother's from Wethersfield. Almost all of the other boys were determined to go west. There was Felix Higgins, I have heard that he did very well in Michigan. Young Julius Runyan went to Indiana and engaged in business. When I take up the village paper I see no names in it that I can recognize, except they may be the descendants of some of the old people. The articles the Union is publishing in regard to Mary Jemison, the old white woman, have been intensely interesting to me, for, when I was a boy, the old people had a great deal to say about the old white woman who lived on Squawkie Hill. I never saw her to my knowledge.

Of course when we boys did not go to the Presbyterian church, we occasionally drove to the Shakers and attended morning meeting. Most people naturally think that seeing them in their dance would be very amusing. I have been there when there were over two hundred spectators. It was very interesting and quite solemn. I never heard a disturbance while I was there.

One other thing I would like to say. In October, 1840, they were having a great "Tippeconoe and Tyler Too" barbecue at Dansville. I should think that the farm teams that went through your village from different places on the way to Dansville were over an hour in passing, loaded with everything you could think of. One banner said, "\$2.00 a day and roast beef." Henry Swan, John Vernam, David A. Miller and I were stand-

ing on what was called Miller's corner, and they united in saying what a humbug, the day would never come when the mechanic would receive \$2.00 a day. My father at that time had rather a large wagon and paint shop, etc., and the highest price he paid any man was \$1.00 a day.

The man who had a pottery up on the hill interested himself to inaugurate a brass band in our village. I was elected to play the second bugle. After having a teacher from Rochester for a good while we started out. I was soon informed that if I would resign it would be very acceptable. I did so and never regretted it. There was Arch McArthur, and if I remember right he was always way up in band music. The same Mr. Hawes, the school teacher, played the trombone and he pretty nearly broke up the whole neighborhood; you would think it was a death struggle going on.

In 1843, about the first of September, my father who had been to Hartford, obtained a situation for me and I landed in Hartford, Saturday p. m., the 4th day of September, 1843, on a stern wheel steamer. I took the night packet to Rochester and from there the train to Albany. They advertised from Buffalo to Albany in twenty-five hours. From Albany to Springfield we had what was then called the T rail, and there took a small stern wheel steamer on the Connecticut river to Hartford. It has been remarked by some how lucky I have been. My luck consisted in taking off my coat and knowing nothing in regard to anything else but the business of the concern, with which I was connected from six o'clock in the morning to ten or eleven at night, but my country store education was a wonderful advantage to me. After a while the firm kept me looking after matters in the west. It seems like a dream, but I went to Cleveland, Ohio, before there was a railroad. I used to take a packet from there to Akron, and hire a team and

travel all over the state. I went to Chicago before there was a railroad, going from Detroit to New Buffalo and there taking a steamer to Chicago.

After I got my feet firmly fastened here in Hartford I succeeded in getting a situation for my brother Charles and sent for him. He was with us eleven years. He went to Detroit and made quite a success there. After his death his property was thoroughly wrecked, but nevertheless, there is no one in Detroit but that respects his memory to-day, and he left his family in very comfortable circumstances. Next I got my brother Henry east. After being in Hartford for three years he went to Providence and I do not think there is any citizen of Providence more respected than he. He has been on the board of Aldermen a great number of times, has been fish commissioner for some twenty years, and is now a member of the legislature and chairman of some of the most important committees.

When my mother died we had not a relative in Western New York; so I brought her here and laid her in my own private lot. My father came east and made his home mainly with my brother Henry in Providence. When he was 86 years of age he went to sleep, so to speak, and was laid beside my mother. Of course when I was a chap we were very poor, but I do not know any happier days in my life than when we all snuggled up and lived in a cheap rent, I think some \$50 to \$60 a year. The only debt that ever annoyed me to pay was when we boys went skating on the canal, we got up to what is called the half way house to Dansville, about 7 miles. My brother Henry who was four years younger than myself came to me saying he was hungry. Most of the boys had walked on their skates to this tavern and were having pie and cheese. I borrowed of an apprentice in a store 25 cents. For two or three months I dodged that apprentice, for I could not see how I could raise the money

to pay the debt as I was then going to school. I finally went to my father and told him the whole circumstance and he gave me 25 cents and I paid the debt. I have often told this to my children.

My life here in Hartford has been on the whole a pleasant one, and I have had as much recognition as I deserve and probably more. My wife died after we had been married forty-three years. Some years our concern has made money and others it has been rapidly the other way, but on the whole I would not want to live it over again. I have no doubt left out a great number of your people in Mt. Morris in this reminiscence to you, but as I am not well, and have to do this all, as it were, in a very short time, dictating it to my amanuensis and typewriter, you will excuse me.

Well, I must stop. God bless Mt. Morris, my boyhood home, and all its present good people.

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### ALLEN AND BARNUM.

About the year 1845, a friendship was formed between two boys in our Union school, under that noted teacher H. G. Winslow, which has proved both lasting and fruitful of good works. The names Allen and Barnum have long been pleasantly associated here by all who love the work of Foreign Missions.

Orson P. Allen was the son of Deacon Morsena Allen, who came with his family to this village in 1834. He was noted as a good man, and especially as a man of prayer; and up to his death in 1861, was regarded as one of the pillars of the Presbyterian church.

Herman N. Barnum was the son of Deacon Daniel Barnum,

who for about fifty years was one of the leading members of the Presbyterian church of Moscow, N. Y.

These two boys after a three years preliminary course here, pursued their collegiate course at Amherst and their theological course at Andover.

In the year 1855, they were ordained in the Presbyterian church in this village, of which they were members, the one as a foreign and the other as a home missionary.

Mr. Allen soon sailed for Harpoot, Turkey, which has ever since been his home. Mr. Barnum, after laboring about two years among the destitute churches of Vermont, went to Germany for his health, and then continued his trip to Turkey to visit his friend Allen. This visit resulted in his being associated with Mr. Allen thereat Harpoot for more than thirty-five years, in what has proved to be one of the most successful missionary stations, and the two are still laboring there with a good promise for the future.

We are happy to give their letters as follows :

FROM REV. ORSON P. ALLEN,  
HARPOOT, TURKEY.

Yours to Herman and myself, of July 17th, reached us last week. It is too near the time of the Centennial you speak of to reach it by letter, so that my reminiscences will not play a part in the celebration you propose. It would indeed be a great treat to me to be there to listen to all the narratives given in regard to the place where my youthful days were spent. My recollections of Mt. Morris extend back 60 years of the century past. My father removed from Smyrna, Chenango Co., to Mt. Morris in 1834.

When I went to Mt. Morris, it was then a thriving village. The dam in the river had been built which sent the water down

the mill race to Mr. John R. Murray's old mill, where I worked with my father for some years before going away to college. Gen. Mills was one of the prominent men in the village at that time. I well remember the large log house near the site of the present brick one, where the General had his home in the early years of the village. If I remember rightly there was only one other log house in the village, that of Mr. Baldwin, near the corner where Deacon Woodford lived.

The building and opening of the Genesee Valley canal was an era in the history of Mt. Morris. General Mills was a prominent man in the celebration, which took place when the first boats came up from Rochester.

The boys of the town used to reckon the days of military muster, or "general training," as the greatest of the year, when men from all the country around came in early in the day "armed and equipped, as the law directs," with flags flying and drums beating. But with no enemies to fight, the martial spirit of Mt. Morris declined, till finally no man could be induced to come to the show. The last I remember of these "general training" days only one solitary officer, Col. W. A. Mills, rode through Main street in military attire, but he did not find any men ready to fall into the ranks. Soon after this regular military companies were formed.

Other great occasions for the boys were when a circus or a "caravan" as we used to call it, came to put up their big tents to show the wonderful feats of circus performers or to exhibit lions, bears, zebras, and other wonderful animals and birds.

The "Fourth of July" also was a day of days with the boys of fifty years ago. I remember I had a great desire to own a cannon, so that I could do my share in celebrating the "glorious Fourth." My first one was made from an old umbrella tep. My next from the butt end of an old gun barrel. With this I

imagined I might have done considerable execution had an enemy been within striking distance. One day I loaded it heavily with powder and iron ball and pointed it at the old barn. Bang! went my old cannon and burst the barrel, and the ball went through the barn and I know not how far beyond among the neighbors houses. I was much troubled and looked anxiously to see if the ball had hit anyone or done any other harm. I was greatly relieved when I heard no report of any one killed or damage done. It must have lodged somewhere between Eagle and Main streets and is no doubt there still.

No doubt Dr. Mills in his Centennial address will give a prominent place to the schools of Mt. Morris. There was one school house built in the old fashioned style. It was situated between Chapel and Stanley streets, where now there are, or were, some lawyers offices. After this a nice brick building was made near the old Methodist church. The school was taught by a Mr. Howe, whose teaching was a great advance on the old style of school teaching.

There were also private select schools established. One of these was that of Mr. N. W. Benedict, in which higher branches were taught than in the public district school. Many no doubt look to the delightful days of Mr. Benedict's school with gratitude for the impulse given them for study. His school was first in a building on Chapel street, over a blacksmith shop, if I remember rightly, then in the basement of the former Episcopal, now I believe the Methodist church; afterwards in Deacon Conkey's building on the corner opposite the church. After Mr. Benedict, Mr. H. G. Winslow, a graduate of Union College, established a select school in a brick building adjoining the house of Mr. Dean, near the old Presbyterian church. His school was deservedly popular and when the Union school building was put up, he was called to be the principal and served



as such for several years. Many of the boys and girls look back to the Union school days with great pleasure, from whence, under the instructions of Mr. Winslow and his assistants, Miss Bradley, (who became Mrs. Winslow) Miss Church, Miss Wood and others, they went forth to the work of life.

In the roll of honor in Mt. Morris' history, the names of the teachers just mentioned should not be omitted. Parents and scholars realize in after years, if not at first, the value of faithful Christian teachers.

Of the history of Mt. Morris for the past forty years I know only as I have heard from friends resident there. The record of Mt. Morris in the civil war of the Rebellion I have no doubt will have honorable mention in the centennial proceedings.

Time would fail me to write of the companions of my boyhood days. Some "have passed to that bourne from whence no traveler returns," a few still linger among the old scenes, and many are scattered in our own land or in foreign lands.

FROM REV. HERMAN N. BARNUM, D. D.,  
HARPOOT, TURKEY.

I am not a native of Mount Morris, but of Leicester, five or six miles away. My father became surety for a man who failed, and who afterwards kept the toll gate at the river; and the opportunity to secure, in the way of board, a part of the money lost, was what sent me, a stranger to everybody, to the Union school in Mount Morris. The times were hard for farmers, and the \$300 paid as surety brought no little distress upon the family, but for me it was a good Providence, for there the whole current of my life was changed.

It was, I think, in the autumn of 1845 that I entered the school. It was a new school, but it had a large body of pupils

under admirable control, and a rare corps of teachers, all ladies except Mr. Winslow, the principal, who was a model disciplinarian. The grounds were bare, but in the spring, under Mr. Winslow's leadership, those of us who were large enough to work, planted trees, which, when I saw them about six years ago, surprised me by their size.

It was in Mount Morris, under the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Bulkley, that I became a member of the Presbyterian church, and it was through his encouragement that I ventured to undertake a college education with the ministry in view. So I have always looked to Mount Morris as my intellectual and spiritual birth place, and no place has had a larger hold upon my affections.

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FROM J. A. ROCKFELLOW,  
WILCOX, ARIZONA.

Your invitation to be present at the celebration of the one hundreth Anniversary of the settlement of Mt. Morris would be accepted with pleasure were it possible for me to be there at the date mentioned.

We Mt. Morris boys in the Great West entertain a most affectionate feeling for the old banner town of the Genesee Valley, and a loyalty to it not surpassed by that toward our more recently established homes.

One can hardly realize the part Mt. Morris, with its few thousand home population, has had in forming this vast Western Empire. In an experience of more than sixteen years west of the Mississippi river, and including states and territories to the number of half a score, I have been constantly meeting

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“that man from Mt. Morris ” and in a large majority of cases, I have found him a man of worth and prominence.

In the last twenty-four hours, in this small Arizona town, I have shaken hands with at least three men, who have the distinction of having come from Mt. Morris, and have met a lady having the same proud distinction. The lady is Mrs. Thomas Hunter, her brother, Mr. Ben Maurer, has a responsible position here with the Southern Pacific Company. Another of the men mentioned is James Barrett, who is here with a shipment of ore from his mine in the Dragoon mountains. The third is George R. King, a leading merchant and postmaster, who has held the office through four successive presidential administrations. His father was a merchant in Mt. Morris forty or fifty years ago.

One of the leading lawyers of this territory, E. M. Sanford, came from the banks of Buck Run; and one of Arizona's most successful business men is J. W. Ransom, whom I remember first in war times, as a member of the famous First New York Dragoons, and later as a clerk for Mr. Lorin Coy; so I could continue to a limit that might tax your patience to read.

I sincerely hope that Mt. Morris may continue to develop and send forth the same types of sturdy American manhood for many centuries to come.

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FROM C. H. AND H. J. IDE,  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

It is now nearing the 15th of August, the date of the proposed Centennial of Mount Morris. We had hoped that matters could be shaped so that we might enjoy that event with so

many of the friends of our youth as may be gathered there, but we are compelled to forego that pleasure. You know how we are situated in our family. Mother (Mrs. Davis), now in her 94th year, needs the attention of one or both of us constantly, and she can't bear to have either of us leave home.

No doubt you will have a day of enjoyment. These Centennials are days which few, very few, people have the pleasure of enjoying the second time. I would dearly love to exchange greetings with those who were my school-mates under the care of that excellent man and teacher, H. G. Winslow, who, by the way, has held a large place in the memory of the writer, and ever felt myself under the greatest obligation for the instruction I received from him. If he is now upon the earth he must be well up in years.

I would be pleased to hear from any of my school fellows or companions, or to have their address. Please extend to any such as may be present my sincere regards and best wishes for their happiness in their remaining years, which, like my own, must be few.

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FROM HENRY D. AMES,  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

Your kind invitation to my brother and myself to attend the 100th anniversary of the settlement of our native town, Mount Morris, is duly received. Please accept our thanks for your thoughtful remembrance, and our regrets that we cannot be present and join in the festivities of the 15th inst.

I believe most heartily in these celebrations, which recall the past with its hardships, struggles and victories, making the

present, which is our heritage, dearer and more sacred to us. The present generation needs to learn the lesson of duty and self-sacrifice and patriotism; and a look backward, and down along the line of our growth and advancement gives us a better idea of our relationship to our fellow men and to our country.

Mount Morris is dear to me as the place of my birth and early life; and more than this as the scene of my father's (Dr. L. J. Ames,) activities, and as now the final resting place of both my parents.

I can but think of what deep interest my father would take in this proposed celebration, for he would now be rounding out his half century of life among you. He was ever public-spirited, keenly alive to the prosperity, material, political, educational and religious, of the people among whom he lived. He had no small share in creating and maintaining public interest in good and worthy enterprises and institutions, always being actuated by pure and patriotic motives.

May you have success in large measure, and fittingly celebrate this day so full of interest not alone to you who will be present, nor to us who are detained at a distance, but that certainly was fraught with the deepest interest to many of those who now sleep peacefully in our hillside resting place.

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FROM MRS. EUNICE H. HALL,

ALLEGAN, MICHIGAN.

My memory is quite fresh, as far back as 1822, my second year, previous to the marriage of Mr. Abner Dean and Colonel Sleeper, who had then the only store in the place, on the corner of the James Bacon lot. The old school house used for all

public meetings, stood on the line of the public green, between State and Chapel Sts. The present centre of business was then the village green, extending from the Mills' homestead, now owned by Mrs. Branch, to the Eagle Hotel, including the surrounding streets.

The village green was the military parade ground for all the towns around and the annual general training with all its splendid display and sham battles was held here, and the bugle calls, and inspiring sounds of martial music, the boom of cannon and the rattle of musketry resounded the hills around, and all the windows and doorways of advantageous view were filled with women and girls, the boys of course in closer proximity, mostly aping the drill with broom sticks and mullen stalks. General Wm. A. Mills was a most conspicuous figure on the old war horse of General Winfield Scott. With the first strain of martial music, forgetting his years, he was prancing and curvetting as if he bore the old brigadier again on the field of battle. Oh the splendor of the General, with his military cocked hat and waving plumes and gold laced regimentals, with glittering epauletts, long flowing, crimson, silken scarf and the flashing sword and scabbard at his side, and when he waved the bright blade in his gauntleted hand, giving orders as he reviewed the fine platoons of glittering bayonets, he looked every inch a hero. On his fine staff were Col. Reuben Sleeper, Col. Walker, Hinman, and other fine looking officers from adjoining towns, arrayed in all their military glory, on prancing steeds, flying hither and thither with the generals orders, the blare of trumpets, the clash of many drums in the martial music, waving of many flags, the rush of cavalry with big bear skin helmets, and the long lines of militia taking their drill, the quick step of Yankee Doodle, as they marched at noon to the banquet prepared by all the brick ovens in town and served on long tables

under a spacious bower of the largest hostelry in town. It was glorious, and I used to choke up my eyes brimming with patriotic tears, as I wondered if there could be anything grander under the sun.

Prospect Hill in those days was a steep, smooth cone, sloping down across the street to the lot below, then owned by Deacon Asa Woodford. My first visit was a truant one, climbing alone when not over two years of age, and made a lasting impression upon my memory. The view from the top over the distant country was very extensive and for years afterwards it seemed as if I saw the whole world and was my first impression of the perspective, the houses looking so little and the people in the streets so diminutive, as if no larger than my biggest finger, an old pig with her brood of little ones, like a beetle with flies crawling along with her, and I clapped my hands at the funny sights, till my mother below, who was searching, saw and came for me. It seems a pity that bold picturesque point should have been so obliterated by excavations.

My memory runs back before the abolition of slavery in the Northern states, when the Carrolls, Fitzhughs, Dr. Gale and the Miller family came from Maryland bringing their slaves, and those of Colonel Fitzhugh often came on errands to my fathers. Miss Bessie, afterwards Mrs. Gerrit Smith, so famous in the Abolition party often came on business and her younger sisters, and once I went with my father to their mansion and saw the cottages of their slaves, and for the first time the cunning little piccaninnies; my chatter seeming to afford great amusement to the ladies of the household, who gathered around me asking all manner of questions and laughing heartily at my ready answers. The tall pillars of the spacious piazza were twined with long vines of the coral honeysuckle in full bloom, and from a bountiful flower garden a large bouquet was presented

me by the ladies. It seems of late years that handsome old mansion has been destroyed by fire, and the family descendants mostly dispersed.

Of the patriarchs of the village, dear old Deacon Stanley was a good and quite prominent man, and a grandfather when we were chums visiting together almost daily for hours, as he worked in his garden bordering the street near the present Presbyterian church and our house was across the way. Deacon Stanley was a far seeing old man. Our only mill had been supplied with water from Damonville brook, carried by a long stretch of wooden troughs mostly underground, sometimes opened to remove obstructions to the mill below the residence of General Mills, whose little son, Henry, slipped into an opening while bathing his feet, and was carried by the current to the water wheel and taken out lifeless. I well remember the sad accident. Deacon Stanley projected and planned the cutting of the millrace from the river dam, which was of great benefit to the milling business, and I think he lived to see it completed.

In those days travel through the state was accomplished by stages, and my father would be two weeks en route to visit his relatives in Goshen, Connecticut. Merchandise of all kinds was transported by heavy wagons across the state at great expense, and Deacon Stanley believed that in time a central canal would be made through the state and sure enough years afterwards his prophecy was fulfilled in the great Erie, before we ever dreamed of railroads.

Another prominent person in the early days was old lady Hopkins, as she was called; who, till in her eighties, was mistress of a large plot of ground, of which Hopkins street was a part remaining in her possession during her life; a lovely little prim old lady with fair though finely wrinkled face, her long beautiful hair forgetting to turn grey and her dainty ways show-



ing familiarity with cultured society in her early days; and many family relics adorned the little red brown house always dainty in its appointments. The step-grandmother of my old schoolmate, Mrs. Almira Spencer, whom she adopted in infancy and trained to womanhood, when the case was reversed and she became the protector and comfort of her old age. Now that the old landmarks are removed, she still returns from her home in sunny Florida where she is reaping the rewards of years of industry, to brighten the small circle of old friends and larger one of new, with her cheery presence.

The Moses family, one of the many early residents, holds a goodly place in the annals of our village, cotemporary with the Binghamms, Camps, Stanleys, Cases, McNairs, Beachs and many others. Miss Aurelia Moses has loving remembrances in the hearts of a long list of girlish pupils. Her sister, Miss Flavia, noted for her wit and independency of character held her place also in church and social circles. Long before the days of woman's suffrage, when ladies had no place in public entertainments, on the occasion of a military banquet on the glorious Fourth of July, Miss Flavia remarked to my father, that she "hoped the ladies would be permitted to hear the cannon."

The Luman Stanley family of three sons and four daughters were noted as sweet singers, and for many years held a large place in the Presbyterian choir in the first church edifice of the village. But this article would be too long to refer to the many particular stars in the galaxy of Mt. Morris, without even mentioning those of modern date. Their descendants have doubtless gone forth to brighten and bless the world, while their forefathers and mothers sleep on the beautiful hillside, and "their works do follow them," while their memory alone shall be cherished in the pages of the Centennial Record.

# BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

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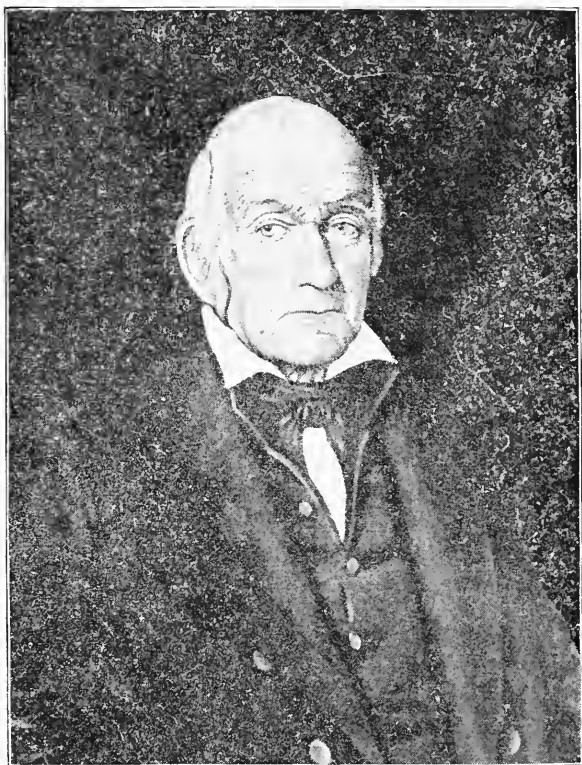
## DEACON JESSE STANLEY.

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Tradition seems to accord to Deacon Jesse Stanley a position of influence, hardly second to that of any other, among the early settlers of Mount Morris.

He came from Goshen, Connecticut, in the year 1811, when he was past the meridian of life, accompanied by his son Luman and family. His son Oliver and family, came about 1815.

Deacon Stanley erected the first framed house in this village, which was located in front of the present residence of Norman A. Seymour on State street, but was subsequently removed to the lot on Murray street, now owned and occupied by R. H. Moses, where it has remained as one of the old land marks until the present year. Later in life he built the house now owned and occupied by Samuel Starr, a little west of the village, where he died after a very protracted and painful sickness, on the 24th of June, 1845, aged 90 years. He was the father of Mrs. Mark Hopkins, whose husband built and occupied the present residence of A. J. Moss on State street, and whose daughter



DEACON JESSE STANLEY.



Almira, the present Mrs. Wm. H. Spencer, still claims this village as in part her residence.

Before the formation of a church, and when the settlement was too small to support a minister, Deacon Stanley was the one to read sermons, and conduct religious service, and lead the singing. He was also very influential in persuading others to locate here. He took a deep interest in all public measures, such as building the dam and race for the mills.

His grandson, Mr. Elihu Stanley of Dansville, who was with us at our recent celebration, has furnished us with a number of interesting facts respecting his grandfather, and we are indebted to him for the accompanying engraving, by which we are enabled to introduce this pioneer to the people of the present generation.

That countenance is indicative of a strong character. He was a choice man for laying foundations for good society in a new country. It was well for Mt. Morris that he was willing to leave his comfortable home in Connecticut, and sustained as he was by his two noble sons and their families, contribute so much as he did for the advancement of this village. Our Stanley street, serves to keep this honored name in lasting remembrance. The late Mrs. S. P. Allen and the present Mrs. J. S. Orton, both of Geneseo, were his grand-daughters.

Mr. Elihu Stanley mentions his having lived for a time at the the first, in the noted block house which stood where now stands the house of Mrs. Vanderbilt on State street, and of his efficiency in gathering the women and children there for security in the war of 1812.

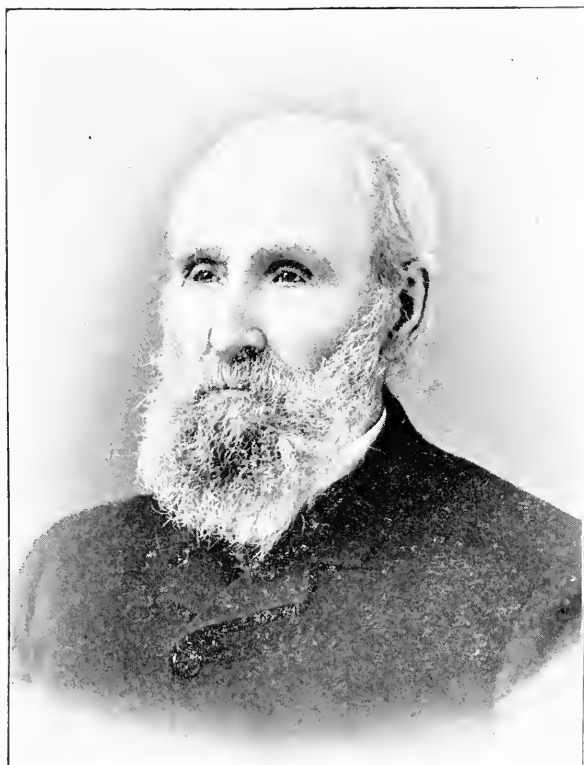
## WALKER M. HINMAN.

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Walker M. Hinman was born in Wysox, Pennsylvania, January 27, 1796, and lived there until he was seventeen years of age. He went to Canada in 1813, and remained there several years. He was made a Mason in 1819 at Belleville, Ontario, and was one of the original members of the Masonic Lodge formed in Mt. Morris during the thirties. He was also a member of the first organization of the I. O. O. F. here about the year 1848, and erected a building for their use on Clinton street, and at the time of his death was the second oldest Mason in the United States.

He was married at Browington, Vermont, February 1, 1829, to Hannah McCurdy of that place. He moved to Rochester, New York, the same year and was the contractor who erected the old Clinton hotel and the old Kempshell flouring mill in Rochester. He moved to Mt. Morris about February, 1830, and lived in a log house situated on the lower end of Main street, and in May of the same year moved into the frame house on the corner of Main and Murray streets, where he died April 21, 1891, having lived there 61 years, and where his two daughters still reside, his wife having died twenty years previous. On the organization of St. John's Episcopal church in 1833, he was chosen Vestryman and soon after was made Warden, and with the exception of a few years held that position up to the date of his death.

He erected the first Protestant Episcopal church in 1835 and



WALKER M. HINMAN.





1836, which was purchased by the Methodist Episcopal church in 1856, and is now occupied by that society. In 1838, he made a contract with the Genesee Valley Canal to furnish stone from a quarry in Woodsville, N. Y., and was engaged in the business about eighteen months.

He was colonel in the old state militia in this section, General W. A. Mills in command.

We copy the following from his obituary: Mr. Hinman died at the advanced age of 95 years. His vigorous intellect remained clear to the last. He was honorable and upright in all his public dealings, and generous to a fault, public spirited and untiring in his devotion to the church, which he loved too well. He was a man of rare genial disposition, retaining his cheerfulness to the end. He was a kind neighbor and a fast friend, courteous and gentlemanly, very hospitable and exceedingly fond of the society of young people. In form he was erect with a commanding physique and pleasing address. Mr. Hinman leaves two sons, Portus M. of Rochester, and Charles H. of Chicago, and two daughters, Martha T. and Harriet E., who still live in the old homestead, and one grandson, Frank P., of this village.

# JOHN R. MURRAY.

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BY L. W. LEDYARD, OF CAZENOVIA, N. Y.

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John Rogers Murray was born in the city of New York, October 15, 1811. His father John Murray, sometimes alluded to as John R., was a man of more than usual character and enterprise. During the last century and the earlier years of the present John Murray and son, and before them, Robert Murray, were very large ship owners, financial agents and real estate proprietors. In many of the parchment deeds and papers, upon which vast land transactions in Western New York and Pennsylvania were founded, they were the accredited representatives of the Holland capitalists, and were associated with the then living generation of the Wadsworths, Ogdens, Robert Morris, Theophilus Cazenove, (of Holland,) Robert Fulton and others of historical fame, through whose transactions were established the very beautiful estates that the Murrays and Wadsworths enjoyed as near friends and neighbors for many years.

At the time of the birth of the Mr. Murray, whose memory, founded on personal affection, still endures, (1894,) his family held a very large extent of real estate on Manhattan Island.

A farm to which they moved as their country place was on the summit still bearing the family name; then rough and rock-ribbed; now the site of many of the grand homes of the successful men of the age, who value highly the aristocratic



JOHN R. MURRAY.



associations of "Murray Hill." When the Fourth Avenue cut was made through this hill and a rude gash in the landscape was left, Mr. Murray was very active in designing and promoting that combination of tunnel and parks, through which millions now are rushed, quite unaware of the lawns and flowers that are above them, or of those who brought beauty to a disfigured spot. The drawings made for this by Mr. Murray are still in the possession of the writer.

The city home of the Murrays at the time of Mr. Murray's youth was in Laight street, Hudson Square, in the already populous part of the Island. Later, about 1863, Mr. Murray built an exceedingly attractive house on, or nearly on the site, of the old farm, on Park Avenue above thirty-seventh street.

Mr. Murray's mother was Harriet Rogers, daughter of Nicholas Rogers, of Baltimore. The home of the Rogers family was the large and beautiful estate known as "Druid Hill," so named, perhaps, on account of the grand oaks that were a feature and suggestion. This most picturesque park was wisely purchased from Mr. Rogers in 1861, by the city of Baltimore, and became the widely known pleasure ground of that splendid city that is now built up to its very gates.

Thus it is shown that Mr. Murray inherited in a pronounced degree, aesthetic taste, which his education confirmed, and his landed and financial succession enabled him to gratify to an extent very fortunate for the localities he loved. From all the works he carried to perfection, he had very great pleasure, his indulgence was generosity, and it is sad to mar the picture, by adding that while artists and men of culture and position were fond and faithful, meaner characters often made personal and unworthy profit from him.

His father died in 1848, leaving his only son trustee for his

mother and two sisters, and there were many cares and great expenses connected with the large and varied estate.

In New York the growth of the city northward was very rapid. It made ultimate values, but they were preceded by enormous assessments. Rock excavation was largely called for, a heavy share of the cost of which was levied on the property benefitted, and what seemed like a vast fortune, four hundred lots on Murray Hill was really in a great part exhausted before high prices were realized.

There were also large holdings in Clinton county, New York, of cold and unproductive lands, that probably never realized values, and also large and profitable water front and commercial buildings in New York. But it is safe to say that the greatest happiness Mr. Murray had in his ever active life was in Mount Morris, in the home, Murray Hill, that ideal spot, beautiful even now (1894) after the desolation of fire and neglect. The blue water of the Genesee flows far below the plateau where the mansion stood, in the same lovely curves that delighted Tallyrand, the broad fields of the famed valley still lie in a restful perspective, but Mr. Murray's aesthetic creations have passed away.

Mr. Murray married Anna Vernon Olyphant in 1839, daughter of D. W. C. Olyphant, a man, who made his name and that of American commercial honesty honored in China in the days when merchants sent their own ships to trade around the world.

Mr. Murray had for the occupation of his bride the charming Mount Morris home. A large, but severely simple mansion, one not intended to divert the eye from the beautiful natural surroundings amid which it stood. Without ostentation, which Mr. Murray abhorred, it was a home of luxury without indulgence. Flowers too tender for the valley air, were tempted to bloom under glass. Gardens furnished all that skillful care could

produce, fish-ponds in secluded places reflected the well chosen foliage that surrounded them, and a well kept lawn was about the house, invisibly separated from the far reaching acres of grass, oaks and chestnuts that made the attractive scene through which the visitor followed the long drive from the lodge to the house. It led to the abode of hospitality and generosity, the former to be remembered by many distinguished people, the latter by many an applicant for aid or sympathy, who rarely walked back under the shade of the oaks, if deserving, without financial or friendly encouragement.

One of the pleasures of Mr. and Mrs. Murray was designing and building the church, St. John's, a building so correct in architecture and fitting for a rural village, standing as it does alone in a wide lawn, that it attests both their culture and liberality. Mrs. Murray, after many years, was borne to rest under its shadow. Her death was at Cazenovia, the home of her adopted daughter, in 1878. Mr. Murray was carried by kind hands to rest by her side, November 1, 1881, from the humble home near the entrance to Murray Hill, where he died, surviving her but three years.

His funeral was one fitting his ripe years so full of works completed. It was on the afternoon of one of the golden days when nature seems to halt before laying aside her garments of splendid maturity. Fallen leaves formed a rich carpet for the path of the bearers, while others, reluctant to fall, still clung to the boughs, forming a canopy of foliage, all suggesting the end of a ripe and beautiful year and the termination of a long and beautiful existence.

Very few of Mr. Murray's compeers reached his age. A graduate of Yale in 1830, he attended in 1880 the semi-centennial class reunion to unite with the elderly men who were once

his gay student companions, but the fifty years had sadly reduced their ranks.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray had no children, but soon after their marriage Mrs. Murray's sister died, leaving an infant daughter. This little life they adopted to enjoy their devoted love and care, which she faithfully returned in their later years. To be near and with her, they took a home in Cazenovia, seeking, as ever, beautiful surroundings for their place of residence. Here they lived from 1865 to the time of Mrs. Murray's death. Mr. Murray then took for a short time one of his daughter's houses (Mrs. L. W. Ledyard), where he was near her for her daily companionship, but his heart was ever yearning for Mount Morris, and he purchased the cottage near his old lodge, where he died a few years later.







HON. GEORGE HASTINGS.

# HON. GEORGE HASTINGS.

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BY GEORGE S. HASTINGS, ESQ., OF NEW YORK.

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For thirty-seven years, the interests and personal history of George Hastings were closely interwoven with the interests and history of Mount Morris. He graduated from Hamilton college in the class of 1826, and afterwards studied law with his uncle, Emmons Clarke, Esq., of Utica in this state. After his admission to the bar, and in the year 1829, he removed to our village, and with but a short interruption continued in the practice of his profession from that time, until his death, in August, 1866.

His education was well rounded, and he was distinguished for diligence, integrity and a high sense of professional honor, during his long career. He commanded the respect and confidence of all our citizens, and was a prominent figure in his profession, favorably known in the entire western section of the State of New York.

His thorough mastery of the principles, lying at the foundation of our system of jurisprudence, enabled him to so apply those principles, as to reach safe conclusions.

For many years he was supervisor of this town, district attorney of the county of Livingston, and twice elected to the office of county Judge. Although a Democrat, such was his popularity, and his enjoyment of general confidence, that

whenever he appeared as a nominee for office, he ran largely ahead of his ticket.

He was elected as a representative in Congress in 1853, and creditably served his district for one term in the stormy period attending the agitation of the question of the extension of slavery, which preceded the secession of the Southern States. That he believed in the supremacy of the government, founded upon a union of States, was shown by the fact that his two sons, and only son-in-law, early in the history of our Civil War, entered the Union Army, and faithfully served their country until nearly the close of the war. But for his political affiliations he would have occupied the position of Justice of the Supreme Court. He was nominated for that office by his party, but in this judicial district, the election of any Democrat, whatever his judicial attainments and experience, was then impossible.

For many years his capacity for the exercise of judicial fairness was recognized by his designation as referee, in important litigations, in this and adjoining counties. He enjoyed a large and successful practice, supplemented by full employment as Referee. In the very spirited contest, which preceded his election as County Judge in 1859, under the able leadership of Sidney Ward, Esq., nominee of the Republican party, he obtained nearly all the votes of the township of Mount Morris, and successfully overcame an apparent adverse majority, ranging from fourteen hundred to eighteen hundred.

He was devoted to the interests of our town and was an earnest advocate of every measure that tended to promote its highest interests. Nor did his many cares and the multiplicity of his official duties, prevent his making for himself a very unusual record, as a christian. In the year 1831, he united with the Presbyterian church in this village, and the same year was ordained ruling elder; which office he held until the day of his

death, to the great profit of the church. Constant in attendance upon religious service, wise in counsel, liberal as a supporter, and social in his bearings, he secured the respect and admiration, both of pastor and people, to an unwonted degree.

His interest, in the children and young people of the church, was manifested in his long term of service, about twenty-five years, as Superintendent of the Sabbath School. What proved to be his farewell address to the school, when disease warned him that he had not long to stay, is still impressively remembered. After this lapse of nearly thirty years since the death of Judge Hastings, the record of his life as a citizen, as a leading member of the legal profession, as an honored father, and as a public officer, is one that adds lustre to his name and reputation, and it may well be preserved in the history of our town and county as an incentive to honest endeavor on the part of our young men, and as a lasting protest against any success or ephemeral reputation that does not rest upon attainment and noble character. The name of George Hastings, to all who knew and loved him, stands for all that exalts life and ennobles character.

He died in the youth of old age in August, 1866, and our entire community mourned his loss. Four sons and two daughters, who survived him, are still living, and all cherish the memory of their beloved father with most reverent regard and affection.

His home, in the north part of our village, on an eminence overlooking the broad plain, was noted for many years; not more as the social center of a large circle of friends and relatives, than for the generous hospitality which was there dispensed by Judge Hastings and his accomplished wife. Happily a worthy son, John M. Hastings, Esq., succeeds the father in the occupancy of the family mansion.

# REUBEN PORTER WISNER.

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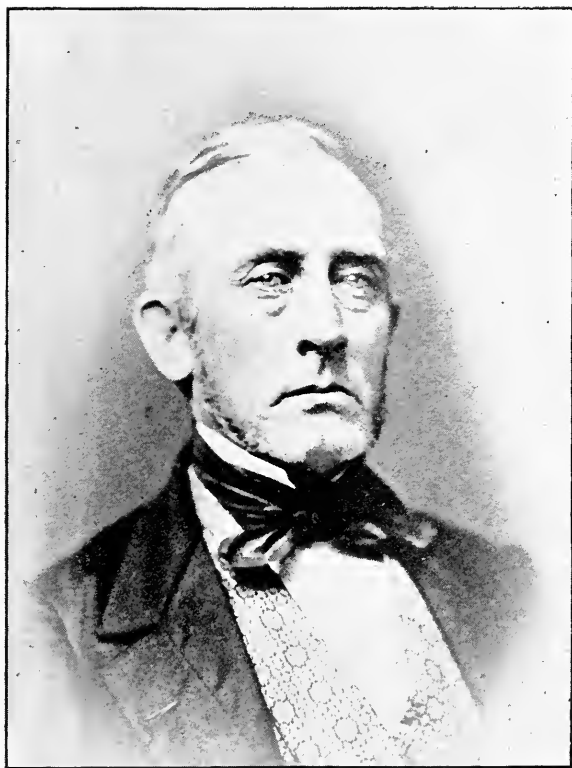
BY L. B. PROCTOR, ESQ., OF ALBANY, N. Y.,

SEC'Y AND HISTORIAN OF THE NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION.

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Reuben Porter Wisner, like many others who have risen to the highest distinction at the bar, was the artificer of his own fortune. Very early in life he evinced a strong love of learning which he sought with diligence. But the somewhat limited means of his parents restricted his advantages for attaining the education he desired. His ambition, his native ability, industry and determination made him to a large extent his own instructor. Every leisure moment of his boyhood and young manhood was devoted to the cultivation of his mind. In this way he made considerable progress in the study of the languages, ancient and modern, in rhetoric, logic and history. [“You would be astonished,” said Daniel S. Dickinson, when a senator in congress, who acquired his education by self study, “did you know how much progress one can make in any study by devoting a single hour in each day to it. In this way I acquired my classical education, while I was learning how to card wool and dress cloth.”] And thus, by a systematic course of self-instruction, Mr. Wisner obtained a very excellent practical education.

He was born at Springport, Cayuga county, New York, March 1, 1810. When old enough he began learning the business of farming, working in the summer, and in the winter



REUBEN PORTER WISNER.





attending school. Business often took him to Auburn, where he made many friends and acquaintances, and while yet a boy he used to attend the sittings of the courts in the old courthouse. Here he witnessed the trial of causes conducted by William H. Seward, B. Davis Noxon, Mark H. Sibley, John C. Spencer and other great fathers of our jurisprudence. Here, too, he saw Esek Cowen, Ambrose Spencer, Greene C. Bronson and other great judges of the state pronounce the laws from the bench. Here he was inspired to enter that profession, and that arena of strife, which calls forth all the acquired and native powers of the mind. There was something in the contests of the bar peculiarly attractive to Wisner's bold and ardent mind, and he determined to become a contestant in an arena so congenial to his tastes.

At length he secured the friendship of Mr. Seward, who invited him to enter his office as a student at law. The offer was accepted with pleasure. As Wisner was an admirable penman, Mr. Seward gave him a salary sufficient to support him until his legal studies were finished.

After receiving his license to practice, he remained in Mr. Seward's office as an assistant two or three years, frequently appearing as junior counsel in cases tried by that great man. In this way Reuben P. Wisner prepared himself for successfully undertaking the responsibilities of his profession.

In 1832, he became a resident of Mount Morris, later forming a co-partnership with the late Judge Samuel H. Fitzhugh, an accomplished lawyer and scholar, a gentleman by birth, education and association. Perhaps no legal firm in Livingston county ever possessed more favorable qualifications to secure a large and remunerative practice than that of Fitzhugh & Wisner, and they succeeded in becoming one of the most successful and distinguished law firms in that part of the state.

Mr. Wisner's rise in the profession was rapid, permanent and honorable, and it soon extended into very many of the counties in Western New York.

In 1841, he represented Livingston county in the state legislature. His colleague was Augustus Gibbs, of Livonia. Peter B. Porter, of Buffalo, distinguished in the history of Western New York as a lawyer of much ability, and for his public spirit and energy in promoting internal improvements, was speaker of the house. In recognition of Mr. Wisner's abilities in legislation and his legal learning, Mr. Porter gave him the second place on the judiciary committee. Mr. Seward was then governor, and he evinced his friendship for his whilom student by those graceful amenities and pleasing attentions which he knew so well how to bestow.

On the occasion of one of the governor's receptions, while Wisner was in the assembly, Seward presented him to the guests, saying, "I take pleasure in introducing to you the Hon. Reuben P. Wisner, whose entrance into the legal profession I had the gratification to promote. For several years he was a student in my office, my confidential clerk, and I am delighted to see him in the law-making department of this state, occupying a conspicuous place on the judiciary committee."

Among other measures recommended by the governor in his annual message to the legislature of 1841 was the passage of a law reducing the fees of lawyers, although a lawyer himself. This brought on a bitter contest between the lawyers and laymen in the legislature, and for a time it rendered Mr. Seward somewhat unpopular with the bar of the state. A bill in favor of the measure was introduced, and it was of course referred to the judiciary committee. Mr. Porter, the chairman, made an elaborate report in its favor. Mr. Wisner submitted an exceedingly able minority report against it. But the bill passed both

branches of the legislature and became a law. Thereafter lawyers were compelled to work for half their former fees. A member of the legislature facetiously remarked, "The lawyers will manage to pick their geese close enough to make up what the governor has taken away from them."

But so extensive and important were Mr. Wisner's professional duties, that, though a re-nomination for the assembly was unanimously tendered him, he was compelled to decline it. Through the remainder of his life his ambition was confined entirely to his profession. He died at Mount Morris in the autumn of 1872, greatly lamented.

Reuben P. Wisner possessed great energy, firmness of purpose and emotions that were frequently intense. His reasoning powers were of a high order, his perceptions intuitively quick, and his circumspection never permitted him to be taken by surprise. His strongest forte was trying causes before juries. In this sphere he was eminently successful. As a speaker at the bar, he was often animated, often impressively eloquent. Sometimes he became too vehement and excited, so that he lost his influence with the jury, but this was not often. He was sanguine, always expecting to succeed; but he took defeat as one of the vicissitudes of a lawyer's life. Another remarkable feature of his character was the strength he seemed to gather in difficult cases. The greater the doubt, the stronger the opposition brought to bear against him by distinguished counsel, the more extraordinary were the efforts he made to overcome his adversary. He seemed to excel himself when hard pressed by opposing counsel.

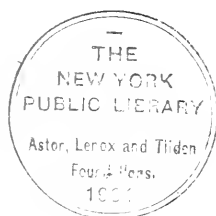
It would be extremely gratifying and interesting to refer to some of the important, and we may say great, cases which Wisner conducted. They are found in the reports of the Supreme Court, and in the reports of the Court of Appeals. In

these reports are seen the extensive learning, erudition and solid reasoning with which he conducted the argument of his cases in these courts. But time will not permit this interesting reference. It is not pretended that Mr. Wisner was a man without faults, for no man lives without them. A person without character enough to make enemies would be like vapid, neutral salts, with no positive quality in them. He was an independent minded, positive man, and men of that class in defending their opinions will come in collision with those who entertain opposite ones, and in maintaining their positions will naturally make enemies who ascribe to them a full quota of errors. It is the sharp angles in a diamond that give brilliancy to that beautiful gem; so it is that the sharp angles in the character and conduct of men often give a brilliancy that causes their faults to be forgotten. Mr. Wisner met his enemies in open, manly, often bitter warfare; but when the contest was ended no man more generously forgot his bitterness, or more fully forgave his enemies than he.

Mr. Wisner's home life was beautiful, for his home was the dearest, the sunniest spot on earth to him. He made it so by those domestic virtues of which he was so happily possessed. Mutual affection presided over his home. This affection shone out in the character of husband, father, friend. He was sympathetic and generous. When his friend was in trouble, he never failed to relieve him, if it were possible for him to do so.

He has gone to his final rest, but pleasant memories and delightful reminiscences are blended with his career at the bar and his family and social relations.

An examination into his professional life presents a useful example for young lawyers entering the arena of legal strife. It exhibits the result of energy, self-reliance and indomitable industry when applied to professional duties and directed to the task of overcoming difficulties.





HIRAM P. MILLS.

# HIRAM P. MILLS.

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AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

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Hiram Perry Mills was born on the 2nd day of January, 1806, in Saratoga county, on the river Hudson, New York State. He remembers well the war of 1812, and can vividly recall the encamping of two thousand troops in a field on his father's farm. About this time he remembers witnessing the swimming across the river of several soldiers whose mouths evidently watered at the sight of some luscious green corn growing on the opposite bank. The ears were plucked and braided, and then suspended round the neck, and in this condition the daring foragers re-swam the river, and returned to camp.

Mr. Mills remained at home until he was nineteen years old, when he married Jane Janet Dunn, and soon after engaged in a large contract with Captain Powers on the Delaware division of the Pennsylvania canal. He was afterwards associated with the construction of the first railroad on the Continent, viz: the Albany and Schenectady, which, when opened, was worked by cable, while the carriages were mere box cars. He was afterwards resident engineer on the Oswego canal, from which appointment he went to the southern part of the State to engage in railroad operations, which were, however, subsequently abandoned.

Mr. Mills was next employed, from 1836 to 1842, on the

Genesee Valley canal, as resident engineer under his brother, F. C. Mills, who, while engineer in chief, paid only stated visits to the works, the practical part of which was carried out under the uninterrupted directions of the younger brother. This canal ran successfully for many years from Rochester to Olean, including the Dansville side-cut. With the increase of railroads, however, its financial prosperity gradually abated, until it finally ceased operations, and its bed was subsequently converted into the foundation for the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad.

Mr. Mills has for many years engaged in banking, and for a long period has been president and principal share-holder in the Genesee River National Bank, an institution noted for its uninterrupted business success, and high esteem in which it is held by the general public. It may here be added that throughout his entire connection with Mount Morris, Mr. Mills has ever sought, both by counsel and finance, to further the interest of the community in which he has so long held a prominent and respected position.

In religion, Mr. Mills is an ardent churchman, and has always taken, and continues to take, deep interest both in the spiritual and financial success of his church, the beautiful ecclesiastical structure known as St. John's, Mount Morris, of which he has been warden for many years.

Mr. Mills is actually one of the oldest residents of the neighborhood, being eighty-eight years of age; but in appearance and mental activity he is one of the youngest.

By his first wife, who died in 1866, Mr. Mills had nine children, six sons and three daughters, of whom three only are now living, viz: Charles Henry, married and residing at Mount Morris, John Edward, widower, residing at Nunda, and Mrs. Dr. Mills, of Mount Morris. Mr. Mills afterwards married



Cornelia J. DePuy, sister of ex-governor Begole, of Michigan, a most estimable lady and an active church member. Mrs. Bradbury, one of the most devoted attendants of St. John's church, is the sister of Mr. Mills and resides at Mount Morris.

Straightforward in all business relationships, hospitable and polite, it is hoped that Mr. Mills may long be spared to adorn with his venerable presence our community, and to gladden the hearts of his many friends with his genial company.

# NORMAN SEYMOUR.

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BY HENRY H. SEYMOUR, ESQ., OF BUFFALO, N. Y.

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Norman Seymour, who died in Mount Morris, February 21, 1892, was born in Herkimer, Herkimer County, New York, on the 16th day of December, 1820. He was the son of Norman Seymour of West Hartford, Connecticut, cousin of Henry Seymour, the old Canal Commissioner, and the father of Governor Seymour. They both went from Connecticut into Herkimer County about the same time. The then Norman Seymour, Sr., afterwards lived in this village for many years, and died here in 1859, aged 77 years; and it was his intention, being a deeply religious man, to educate his two sons, Norman and McNeil, for missionaries. McNeil, who afterwards became a distinguished lawyer of this place, and whose untimely death in 1870 is still remembered, was sent through college; and so would have been Norman but for the state of his health, which absolutely prevented the training and life which his marked literary ability naturally preferred, and towards which, during all the years of his business life, he continually turned. His sister, Mary Seymour, having just become the wife of the late Judge Hastings, he came here as a young man of eighteen to visit her, and this led to his life residence in Mount Morris.

In 1843 he married Miss Frances Metcalf, a daughter of Henry Metcalf, of Keene, N. H., who, after her father's early



*Norman Seymour*



death, had lived with her uncle, the late James R. Bond, in his residence on State Street, from which she was married, and which, since Mr. Bond left it, has been the home of Mr. Seymour's son, Norman A. He was also a brother-in-law of the late Edward I. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury in Lincoln's Cabinet.

It was interesting to hear Mr. Seymour describe his first coming to Mt. Morris in a stage from Canandaigua, in 1838. From that year until this, he has been an active, interested, go-ahead business man of Mount Morris. For the last twenty-five years, and until he retired from business three years ago, he had been a hardware merchant, and when he left the store, which he purchased forty-six years ago, and owned until his death, he had been man and boy fifty years under the same roof. But during all this time the real interest of his life was in that literary work which could be presented to the public by an oration or an historical address. He was an eloquent speaker and he had the faculty of only touching upon interesting topics and struck at once to the key note of the subject. For this reason, in the old days, though the Mount Morris bar had strong men, he was selected often to make addresses. He gave the oration at the time of Lincoln's funeral services here, also the oration on the return of the soldiers from the war, and the historical address on the "history of Mount Morris," at the opening of Livingston Hall, in 1873. He gave the annual address before the pioneer picnic at Silver Lake in 1877, and as recently as 1890 he gave one before the same society on Mary Jemison, "the white woman." He gave the annual address once before the Genesee County Pioneer Association in 1878, and a great many others before various associations of a pioneer and historical character. He was a member of the Albany Institute, a life member of New York Historical Society, and

honorary member of many others. He was one of the chief promoters of the Livingston County Historical Society, was once its president and for many years its secretary, never missed its annual meetings and made numerous addresses before it; among others, one on the late John R. Murray of Murray Hill, who was a man he admired and prized, and who reciprocated his friendship. The last address delivered by Mr. Seymour was at the meeting of the County Historical Society in this village, in January 1892, at the Seymour Opera House, when he read an article upon the late Dr. Ames.

Not many now, save old residents, can recall, nor perhaps have ever heard of, the old Mount Morris days—the days of the canal, the old toll bridge across the river, of riding down to the second lock on the packets, as they left here at 7 p. m. on the ringing of the bell on the old Howard Athenæum. Of those days, when Mr. Seymour was an ardent, keenly-observing man, he had innumerable anecdotes and recollections that would have filled a volume. He was, too, a witty man, saw the ludicrous side of things, as well as the serious, a capital judge of character, sized men up in an instant, though never saying much about them, and with a wonderful memory that retained until his last day, the impression of every incident of his life; he could talk for hours, until one saw vividly again the old characters and the old days.

During all the years, over thirty, when Mr. Hugh Harding was editor of the *Union*, Mr. Seymour contributed to it constantly. He wrote for it and for the *Rochester Democrat*, under the pen name of Robert Morris, the obituaries of his friends and acquaintances and historical articles, year in and year out, until the memory of man runneth not to the contrary. It was a standing joke with his friends that he had the obituaries written and pigeon-holed of every one, ready to be

drawn at sight. He once prepared a long one of his wife, which he used to read in her presence, with great merriment, to his friends. He probably was the best posted man in the county on all matters of historical lore; an authority and a reference on all such topics, and his interest in them was undying and never flagged.

He was an ardent Republican from the birth of that party until he died, and attended, as a delegate from this county, the first State convention at which it came forth. He greatly admired Horace Greeley, and took the Log Cabin and Tribune for forty years. He knew Mr. Greeley, and used to tell the story of once when riding from here to Perry with him in the dead of winter, very cold, and snow filling the cross-roads, how, when half way over, Mr. Greeley started up with, "Good God! Mr. Seymour, I have left my lecture," and they had to return here for his satchel.

He was once collector of the port in the old canal days, and once postmaster, member of the Board of Education, trustee of the Presbyterian church, of the village, of the Cemetery Association from its organization, and member of its executive board. He was one of the three commissioners who selected its present beautiful location, and threw all his influence to have that site chosen instead of enlarging the old cemetery, as was talked.

Mr. Seymour was fond of his home, fond of the country, fond of this beautiful valley of the Genesee, and he seldom went away from it. In 1882 he spent the summer in Europe, which he greatly enjoyed, and he made several public addresses after his return, on his travels, for the benefit of local organizations, and had he lived he would have gone again.

He was a religious man by temperament, though not caring much about theology, but early united with the Presbyterian church. He was a man utterly without any nonsense about him.

No fad or freak ever could get any lodgment in his mind; and society, which he enjoyed greatly, had no gradations for him. His tastes were simple and elementary. He attached a proper value to money, but that was all. He enjoyed life immensely in that true and elementary way through which real and lasting pleasure can only come. No one ever saw him look bored or tired of life. He was honesty itself. The idea of taking advantage of any one, or advancing himself at the expense of any one, never entered his mind. He was always ready to do more for any one else than for himself, and gentle and simple things gave him pleasure.

He never gossiped; never said an unkind word of any one in his long life; never gave a thought to the schemes and bickerings of men no more than if on some other planet they rose and fell; but he was nevertheless ambitious, and considering his gentle and literary temperament, and his early assuming all the responsibilities of life, he was a successful and a happy man. His perfect health contributed also to this. He was a great walker, fond of tramping with his grand-children; of a nervous, quick temperament, and to within one week of his death, his step was as active, and his figure, if you did not see the gray hair and his face, like a man of twenty-five.

Mr. Seymour's wife and his four children survive him; Mary S. Howell of Albany, wife of George R. Howell, State Librarian; Henry H. Seymour, attorney, of Buffalo; Norman A. and Edward C., of this village. Also two sisters, Mrs. Lydia Hinman and Miss Catherine M. Seymour of Mount Morris.







JOHN R. McARTHUR.

# JOHN R. MCARTHUR.

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BY ARCHIBALD MCARTHUR, OF CHICAGO, ILL.

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John R. McArthur was born of Scotch parents, at Canajoharie Montgomery county, New York, February 18th, 1803. When quite young, he removed with his parents to Auburn, New York, where he was married, in 1823, to Mary Miller, and soon after went to Steuben county to reside. There his eldest child, William, was born in 1825.

During the year 1826 he removed to the town of Mount Morris, and settled in the valley of the Cashaqua Creek, about two miles above its junction with the Canaseraga. At this point he built a saw-mill and engaged in lumbering. His first mill was carried away by high water; he afterwards built two other mills, and continued the lumbering business there and in that vicinity until 1864.

During the building of the Genesee Valley canal, which passed through his place, he had several large contracts for construction, and after the completion of this canal he had a number of contracts for the enlargement of the Erie canal. He had about two hundred acres of land where he resided, and his business life was spent between lumbering, contracting on public works, and farming.

After the death of his wife, which occurred in 1864, he went, in the spring of 1865, with Lucius Southwick, to Michigan in

search of investments in timber lands, and they, in company with two other gentlemen, bought the timber lands and lumbering property, known as the Duncan estate, at Cheboygan. Here they erected mills and began lumbering operations. In 1868 he sold his interest in this lumbering property, and thereafter resided with his son Alexander, on a farm which they owned near Conesus, New York. He was taken ill and died suddenly at the home of his son Archibald, in Rochester, New York, February 17, 1870.

He had a great thirst for knowledge, and was a most assiduous reader of ancient history and scientific literature. He kept in touch with the broadest and best thought of his day, and thereby was a man of wide, general knowledge and information, and able to interest in conversation all who came in contact with him. He was a man of firmness and sterling integrity, whose every act was based on his highest idea of right and justice. While a man of great firmness, he was never known to be ruffled in temper, or in any way lose control of himself.

He had five sons and five daughters, eight of whom are still living. Three of his sons, William, James and Archibald, pursued somewhat the same lines as their father, lumbering and contracting. They have for several years been one of the largest railroad contracting firms in the west. They had large contracts for the construction of buildings and preparation of grounds for the World's Columbian Exposition, and the great drainage canal of Chicago, now under construction.

His son James inherited, in a marked degree, his father's thirst for knowledge, and at the time of his death, in March 1863, owned one of the largest and most read private libraries in the city of Chicago.

William and Archibald purchased the interests of all other

owners in the Michigan lumber property, and William went to Cheboygan to reside in 1873. He had the management of the business there, up to the time of his death, June 1, 1894. He had been a member of the Michigan legislature, and held many other positions of public trust, and was widely known throughout the state. He was a man of excellent judgment and highest integrity, honored and beloved by all who knew him.

Archibald resides in Chicago, and still continues the business of lumbering and contracting.

# HENRY SWAN.

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BY DR. M. H. MILLS.

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In this centennial year, and celebration of the settlement and history of Mount Morris, the writer recalls, among the prominent citizens and business men of the past, who have been identified with the growth and prosperity of the village, the name of Henry Swan, as a cherished memory.

Mr. Swan and wife were natives of Saratoga county, N. Y., and came to Mt. Morris to reside in 1836. Mr. S. engaging in the dry goods trade, continued it through his business career. When the State commenced building the Genesee Valley canal in 1836-37, he took a contract to construct one mile of the canal, extending through the village to the Genesee river, which he completed to the satisfaction of the state officers in charge. Upon the completion of the canal to Rochester in 1840, he built a warehouse upon its banks and engaged extensively in the grain and produce business. He was largely interested, also, in a line of packet and freight boats on the canal.

In October 1853, when the Genesee River Bank commenced business, \$100,000 capital, he was a stockholder and director, and was subsequently tendered the presidency of the bank, which he declined. Unostentatious and retiring, he preferred the rank and station of private life, to public office. He was



HENRY SWAN.





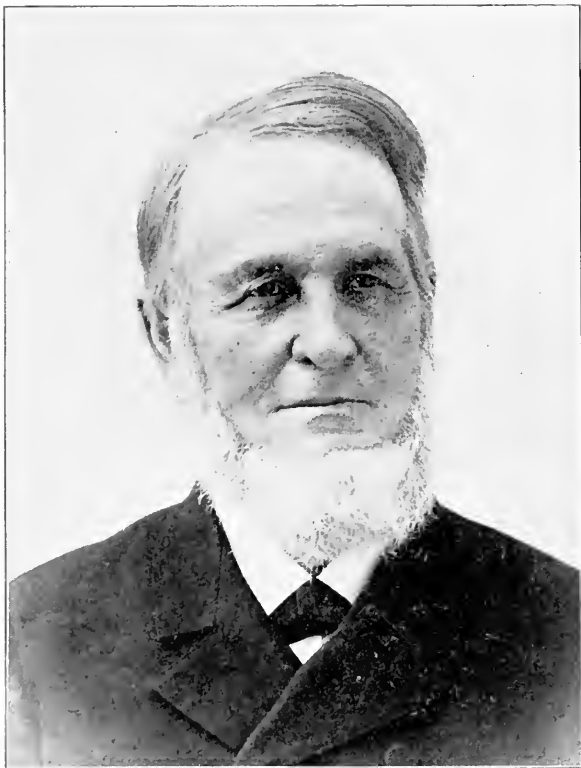
one of the projectors, and took an active part in securing the building of a railroad from Avon to Mount Morris in 1859. He was one of the incorporators and trustees in the Cemetery Association, organized to provide a new cemetery to meet the requirements of the growing village, in which he took a special interest and pride. Its beauty of location, artistic design in laying out the grounds and embellishments, driveways and foot-paths, reflect in an eminent degree the refined taste and good judgment of the Association, rendering the cemetery an inviting and attractive place for the repose of the dead.

Mr. Swan, politically, was a Jeffersonian Democrat, and was postmaster under James K. Polk in 1844-48. The office carrying with it political prestige, made it acceptable. He was public spirited, benevolent, and contributed with an open purse to all enterprises, which had for their object the prosperity and business interests of Mount Morris. No man was truer to his friends and business engagements. His insight to business and the affairs of life, was singular, lucid and correct. His fund of general information was large. His rare good sense was a distinguished trait in his character. He always underrated his own abilities. His confidence once gained, he was the truest of friends. Those who enjoyed his confidence, know how much pure gold there was in it. He was a man of the world, as he understood men, their motives, and springs of action, and could not be easily misled or deceived. He had not the slightest ambition to figure in public life, though political preferment and distinction lay in his pathway. Undeviating integrity, considerate and broad gauge in his business relations, and uniform courtesy, made friends in all his business enterprises. Especially was this so with his employees, none of whom were ever heard to speak of him except in admiration and sincere regard. An old employee writes the author of these lines, from

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, under date of November 19th, and says :  
“I was in Mr. Swan’s employment three years, and a nobler or grander man I never knew.”

Henry Swan was born in 1802, and died in Mount Morris, August 3, 1867, aged 65 years. Thus an honest man, nature’s rare gift, and public benefactor has passed away, but the impress he has left upon this community and his memory are indelible. The writer of these lines has witnessed no pleasanter picture in the summer gone, than is revived and called to mind in penning the above tribute to the memory of the honored dead and esteemed friend.





ZARA W. JOSLYN, M. D.

# ZARA W. JOSLYN, M. D.

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BY H. W. MILLER.

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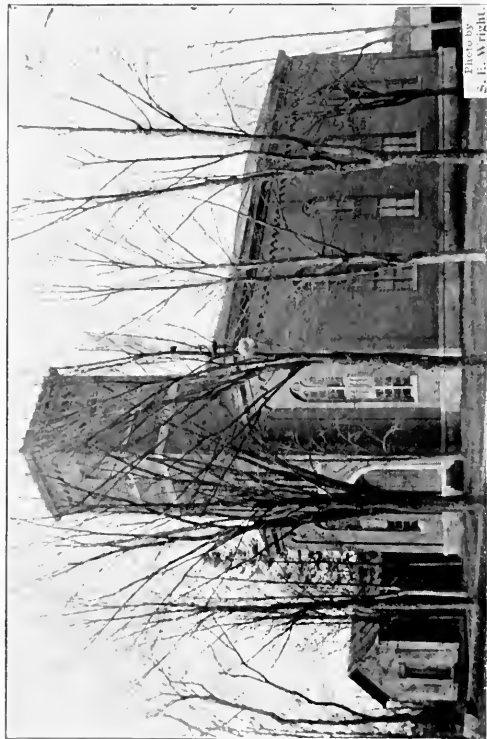
To give even a brief history, of one so thoroughly identified with the growth and progress of our village, as was the subject of this sketch, is indeed no simple task. There are or have been, probably, none connected with the civil, educational and religious development of Mount Morris, so widely known, esteemed and respected, as Dr. Z. W. Joslyn.

He came to this town in the year 1854. At once he became identified with all that pertained to the interest of the town, and was from first to last a representative man. In whatever position of private or public trust he was placed, he maintained the same truthful and noble character, winning the confidence of all with whom he came in contact. His manner was cordial and off-hand, endearing him to all. His language was simple, clear and unequivocal, often revealing the deep and strong emotions of his nature. He was a fearless opponent, never yielding a single point until he had exhausted all that pertained to the subject under discussion. He had a marvelous gift of language, making him prominent in social and public life. He detested sham and insincerity, always demanding the truth on all subjects. As a physician, he ranked with the first, ever greeting his patients with a smile, bringing sunshine and cheer to the bedside of the sick and suffering. He was for many

years President of the Livingston County Medical Society. He took a great interest in educational matters, and was for years chairman of the Board of Education, devoting personal attention to school work, doing all he could to bring the schools up to the highest standard possible. In short, all his acts, during his connection with the Board of Education, show a purpose to do his duty to teacher and scholars, and to the patrons of the school, without fear or favor.

During the late war, Dr. Joslyn rendered valuable service, going from town to town with all his power of gifted eloquence, persuading men to enlist in defense of our country; none were more patriotic, more self-sacrificing, spending time and money without remuneration. As a friend, neighbor and citizen, his death seemed irreparable. In the Board of Trustees of the village of Mt. Morris, he was an active member, ready for any improvement, that would benefit or adorn our beautiful village. He devoted much time in looking after the efficiency of the Fire Department. The "boys" always found a friend in the Doctor.





PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.



# BRIEF HISTORIES OF CHURCHES.

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## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

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BY REV. L. PARSONS.

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The First Presbyterian Church of Mount Morris, was organized April 29, 1814, by the following fourteen individuals: Jesse Stanley, Jonathan Beach, Luther Parker, Enos Baldwin, Abraham Camp, Luman Stanley, Russel Sheldon, Almira Hopkins, Lucy Beach, Martha Parker, Sarah Baldwin, Mary Camp, Patty M. Stanley and Clarissa Sheldon. Among those received prior to 1820, we find Martin Beach and wife, Asa Woodford and wife, Mrs. Susannah H. Mills, Moses Camp, Oliver Stanley and wife, James Conkey and wife and Mrs. Betsey Mason.

*Ministers:* Mr. Stephen M. Wheelock, a licentiate, was the first minister; and he continued about three years after the organization. His successors have been as follows: Rev. Silas Pratt, from 1817 to 1818; Rev. Elihu Mason, from 1818 to

1820; Rev. Bartholomew F. Pratt, 1821 to 1825; Rev. Wm. Lyman, D. D., 1825 to 1827; Rev. Abel B. Clary, 1827 to 1828; Rev. James McMaster, 1828 to 1830; Rev. Calvin Bushnell, 1830 to 1831; Rev. James Wilcox, 1831 to 1832; Rev. George W. Elliott, 1832 to 1834; Rev. Clark H. Goodrich, 1834 to 1838; Rev. John VanBuren, 1838 to 1839; Rev. Cyrus Hudson, 1839 to 1846; Rev. C. H. A. Bulkley, 1847 to 1851; Rev. Darwin Chichester, 1851 to 1855; and Rev. Levi Parsons 1856 to the present time.

*Ruling Elders:* The first ruling elders, were Jesse Stanley, Abraham Camp and Jonathan Beach. Those subsequently elected, were James Coe and Luther Parker in 1818; Asa Woodford and Oliver Stanley in 1820; John Pratt and James Conkey in 1829; George Kemp, Jr., and George Hastings in 1831; Harry H. Evarts and James H. Rogers in 1834; Reuben Weeks, Reuben Sleeper and Charles W. King in 1836; Marsena Allen in 1842; Henry Sheldon, Charles Holmes and Levi Goddard in 1844; Samuel J. Mills, Loren J. Ames, M. D., Milo H. Maltbie and Stillwell Burroughs in 1853; Loren Coy and Pomeroy Sheldon in 1857; Jonathan E. Robinson, Samuel L. Rockfellow and Justine Smith in 1862; Elijah N. Bacon, Frederick E. Hastings, Ziba A. Colburn and Jay E. Lee in 1871; Reuben S. Weeks and Wilder Silver in 1875; Miles B. McNair in 1883; Henry M. Swan and Joshua C. Weeks in 1886; Robert Crawford in 1887; George H. Wiltsie in 1890; Frank H. Mills and Ansel Spinning in 1891, and Jacob Knappenberg in 1894. The election of elders for a limited term was adopted in 1875.

*Deacons:* The first deacons, were Jesse Stanley and Jonathan Beach. Those subsequently elected have been as follows: Asa Woodford, William Marvin and Abraham C. Camp in 1831; James Conkey and Marsena Allen in 1834; Robert E. Weeks in 1861; Esek M. Winegar in 1862; James Beggs and Milo H.

Maltbie, in 1871; Wilder Silver in 1879; Willard A. Weeks in 1886; Jacob Tallman and Amos Austin, in 1887; Theodore Swan, in 1891, and Ansel Spinning, in 1894.

*Members:* The whole number of members, by catalogue, is 1439; being an average annual addition of about eighteen. The present number, as reported to Presbytery is 255.

*Baptisms:* 210 adults, and 465 infants, total 675.

*Choir:* The first choir, consisted of Deacon Jesse Stanley, leader, Luman Stanley and wife, Mrs. Mark Hopkins, Mrs. Parmerlee, Abraham C. Camp, Moses Camp and Harlow Beach.

The succession of leaders has been as follows: Harlow Beach, Moses Camp, Wm. H. Stanley, Cicero Camp, John Pratt, Harry Evarts, George Hastings, Henry Sheldon, Loren Coy, and Thomas Hudson. Mr. Coy was a very faithful leader, for more than thirty years. The organ was purchased in 1864. Mrs. Merab A. Scott was organist from 1864 to 1867. Mrs. Ruth M. Hastings, from 1867 to 1883, and Miss Helen Coy from 1883 to the present time.

*Sabbath School:* As early as 1814 or 1815, Mrs. Oliver Stanley, and Emily, daughter of Luman Stanley, gathered numbers of poor children, and instructed them upon the Sabbath. As the result of these efforts, a permanent organization was effected in 1817. Allen Ayrault was superintendent in 1818. Among the early teachers, were Abraham C. and Moses Camp, Harlow Beach, Mr. and Mrs. Alvah Beach, Sylvia Coe, Lucina Baldwin, James Conkey and Asa Mahan. Some Indian girls, were among the first pupils. Newton Robinson was superintendent about 1826; and was succeeded by Abner Dean, and John Pratt. This office, with slight exceptions, was filled from 1831 to 1866, by Harry Evarts, and Hon. George Hastings; the former from 1831 to 1841, and the latter from 1841 to 1866, the time of his death. He has been succeeded by

Deacon Milo H. Maltbie, Wm. P. Heston, A. M. Bingham, Esq., Dr. L. J. Ames, James VanDerbilt, Wm. H. Pease, F. E. Hastings, Joshua C. Weeks, and Miles B. McNair. Mrs. Lucretia Sleeper was influential in securing the first library, in 1826. Miss Aurelia Moses, as assistant superintendent, in 1830, secured a more thorough organization of the school. Prior to the year 1831, the time for meeting was 9 a. m., subsequently, the school has met immediately after the morning service. The present membership is 233.

*Missionary Societies:* The Youths' Missionary Association, was organized in 1856, and continued for about seven years. The Ladies' Church Missionary Society, was organized January 10, 1872, with Mrs. Harriet M. Parsons, as president. The Young Ladies' Missionary Society, was organized April 16, 1882, with Miss Anna M. Maltbie, as president. These two societies were combined, as the Society of Christian Workers, in 1890, with Mrs. Mary W. McNair, as president. The Cyprus Mission Band, was organized June 9, 1882, with Miss Carrie Lowery, as president. The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, was organized in January, 1888, and has done very effective work for the Master. At present it has about sixty members.

*Those Entering the Ministry:* In 1855, the Presbytery of Ontario, ordained at this place, two members of this church, Orson P. Allen and Herman N. Barnum, the former as a foreign, and the latter, as a home missionary. Mr. Barnum, however soon followed Mr. Allen, to Harpoot, Turkey, where the two have been associated as missionaries, up to the present time. Samuel J. Mills, after removing to the West in 1856, entered the gospel ministry, and did faithful work for the Master. Isaac O. Best, was ordained in 1873 and is now preaching at Broadalbin, New York. Frank Gaylord Weeks, was

ordained November 3, 1835, and is now preaching at Springwater, New York.

*Revivals:* The larger additions have been made in the following years: 1816, forty-two; 1822, eighty-four; 1831 to 1835, one hundred and fifty-seven; 1839, forty-five; 1843, fifty-three; 1848, forty-seven; 1853, twenty-nine; 1856, sixty-seven; 1858, thirty-one; 1864, forty-one; 1870, forty-one; 1878, fifty-two; 1882, thirty-two; 1885, twenty-two; 1890, twenty-six.

*Religious Society:* The First Presbyterian Society was incorporated about the year 1816. The first trustees were, Gen. Wm. A. Mills, Elisha Parmelee, Phineas Lake, Jerediah Horsford and Luman Stanley. The names of others, who have held this office, are as follows: Thomas Wilcox, H. Woodford, N. Seymour, Geo. S. McNair, S. Spencer, E. M. Winegar, C. Woodman, S. Burroughs, L. Coy, G. S. Whitney, S. L. Rockfellow, R. E. Weeks, C. V. Ament, Pomeroy Sheldon, James Vanderbelt, A. Wigg, Walter Weeks, Merrick Sheldon, M. B. McNair, Jacob Tallman, Jas. W. Roberts, W. W. Ostrander, J. G. Forrest, W. H. Coy, Henry S. Wigg, Lyman Carr, J. C. Weeks, Frank H. Mills, George W. Phelps, Henry M. Swan, A. M. Bingham, D. W. VanScooter, Henry W. McNair, L. J. Ames, Hugh Harding, E. B. Osborne, C. B. Galbraith, W. A. Weeks, Chester D. White, J. M. Hastings, F. S. Thomas, Thomas Hudson, G. H. Wiltsie, E. R. Creveling, Jacob Knappenberg.

*Church Buildings:* Prior to the organization of the church, and for eighteen years after, religious services were held in the school house, which was on the west side of what was then an open square. The first church edifice, 64 by 44, and located on the north side of the aforesaid square, was dedicated in January 1832, Rev. S. H. Gridley, then of Perry, New York,

preaching the sermon. In 1841, this building was moved about twenty rods south, to the lot where now stands the residence of Arthur Sawyer, and enlarged. At the same time, a separate lecture room, 40 by 24, was erected, a short distance to the east of the church. Both these buildings were destroyed by fire, September 29, 1852. The present brick edifice, 80 by 52, on the corner of State and Stanley streets, was completed in 1854, John P. Gale being the master builder, and was dedicated February 1, 1855, Rev. Darwin Chichester, the pastor, preaching the sermon. The present lecture room, 24 by 40, just west of the church, was built in 1860. Abraham Wigg took the contract, and was the most liberal subscriber.

*Presbyterial Relation :* This church was received under the care of the Presbytery of Geneva, February 12, 1817; and after the organization of the Presbytery of Ontario, in March 1818, was transferred to that body, which it followed, when the same became a part of the present Presbytery of Rochester in 1870.

*Deaths :* The whole number of deaths, in the families of this congregation, for the 38 years prior to January 1, 1894, is 384; being an annual average of ten and a fraction. The aggregate age is 17,350 years, making the average age 45. Of this number 186 were communicants, of whom 20 were non-residents. As to ages, if we group them by decades, we find under ten 74, of whom 48 were less than one year, from ten to twenty, 16; from twenty to thirty, 38; from thirty to forty, 36; from forty to fifty, 33; from fifty to sixty, 34; from sixty to seventy, 46; from seventy to eighty, 62; from eighty to ninety, 35; from ninety to one hundred, 10.





METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.



## THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

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BY REV. L. D. CHASE.

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In offering for publication the following brief account of the rise and progress of Methodism in Mount Morris, New York, it should be here stated, that some years ago a disastrous fire occurred in the village, destroying, among other valuable papers, some important records of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Two former pastors of the society, delivered, when preaching on the charge, historical sermons of much interest. These sermons are greatly helpful in writing this account. The ministers referred to are, Rev. Thomas Cardus, of Batavia, New York, and Rev. W. C. Wilbur, of Buffalo.

The first Methodist preacher to appear in Mount Morris was Rev. J. B. Hudson. In 1804, he made a trip from Friendship, Allegany county, to this vicinity; stopping at Allan's Hill, that being the original name and place of Mount Morris. Following the course of the Genesee River for thirty-five miles, in making the journey, he writes, that he "saw no signs of civilization at any point on the way." On reaching this place, he saw, besides Indians, a few houses scattered about, occupied by white people. These were tenants of the "Old White Woman," who is remembered by some of our citizens to this day. Mr. Hudson found here, at this early day, a few people

who called themselves Methodists, and from this time Mount Morris became a stated preaching place on the circuit of the itinerant.

The little class, formed by Hudson, was connected with the Canisteo Circuit of the Susquehanna District and the Philadelphia conference. Rev. Anning Owen was Presiding Elder. Following Mr. Hudson, as preachers, were Gerard Morgan and John Richards. Connected with the first class were, Mrs. Mills, wife of General Mills, Mrs. Simeon Kittle and Mr. and Mrs. Salmon. The first regular organization of the society was in 1822. Thirteen members: Peggy Miller, Sarah Eaton, Sally Parker, Diadama Parsons, Ashael Parsons, Eliza Damon, Chester Grover, Esther Parsons, Wm. P. McNair, Rebecca McNair, Rachel Parker and Elizabeth Holtslander. For years the little society worshipped in school houses, yet strong men ministered to them, as the record shows. As pastors there came Wilbur Hoag, Merritt Ferguson, Jonathan Benson, and others of equal strength; and, as Presiding Elders: Gideon Draper, Asa Abel, Loring Grant, and others, whose names are yet familiar to many elderly people. Among the class leaders in those days, were Chester Grover, Levi Keyes, Ezra Kinney, and others.

In 1831, under the pastorate of Rev. J. Lent, the contract for a new church was let, about 40 by 50, and the work soon under way. The location was near the Dr. Joslyn residence. The house was completed in 1833. At the dedication a revival started, which greatly stirred all classes. Dr. Luckey preached the first sermon, and Rev. Glezen Filmore, the Presiding Elder of the district, followed with a masterly sermon, which was long remembered. The trustees were, E. Damon, Ezra Kinney, L. Hoskins and George W. Barney. In the years following, the pastors were, Reverends, Wallace, Wooster, Atchinson, Benjamin, Farrell, Latimer, Gulick, and others.

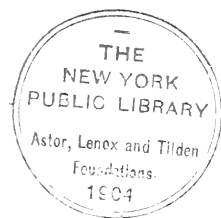
The Presiding Elders were Reverends, Babcock, Hibbard, Copeland, and others, whose names are not now known.

In 1856, the Protestant Episcopal Church edifice, on the corner of Chapel and Stanley Sts., was obtained; and a suitable building to be used as a parsonage, on the adjacent lot. The Rev. J. L. Edson was then pastor. The trustees at this time were, Jacob Chilson, Ezra Kinney Selden Carpenter, Barnabas Olp, and Francis Yeomans. Then followed as pastors, Giles, Shaw, Harrington, Trowbridge, and Edson. The pastorate of the latter, Rev. James L. Edson, was eminently successful, and he was called to serve the church a second term. In 1866 Rev. A. N. Filmore was appointed to the charge. Under his leadership the society began extensive repairs on the church, which were completed under the efficient pastorate of his successor, Rev. C. M. Gardner, at a cost of \$4,500. Then followed, as pastors, Bradley Cardus, Rodgers, Hill, and Wilbur, all worthy of praise for the work they accomplished. The pastorate of Rev. James Hill is marked, as the time, when Mr. and Mrs. George A. Green made the most generous gift of a new and beautiful parsonage to the society.

In 1878, Rev. E. E. Davidson, the noted evangelist, conducted revival services in the different churches in town, resulting in large gains to the Methodists, as well as to the other denominations. Following Mr. Hill was the exceedingly pleasant and profitable pastorate of Rev. W. C. Wilbur, resulting in a large increase to the membership. Then followed, as pastors, Reverends W. O. Peet, E. P. Hubbell, W. B. Waggoner and E. B. Williams. Under the pastorate of W. B. Waggoner, large repairs were made on the church, and a fine pipe organ purchased for the use of the society, at a cost of \$2,200. E. P. Hubbell is the present secretary of the Genesee Conference. Of the noble band of layman, who, in the later years of the

church's history, labored zealously for its success, and have gone to their reward, we have not the room to make a suitable record in this brief sketch. Many will call to mind Hiram H. Gladding, Levi L. Totten, Jacob Chilson, Dr. W. H. Noble, Dr. Henry Povall, and many others, equally deserving of mention. Human records, at best are imperfect, but He whom they serve will hold them in "everlasting remembrance."

At this time, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Mount Morris is in possession of a desirable church edifice, and a fine parsonage, eligibly located and sufficient to meet the present wants of the society, and unencumbered. On its records are the names of 130 members. It has a Sunday School and Epworth League, well officered, and in keeping with the numerical strength of the church. Its board of trustees are, John F. White, President of the Board, Warren Richmond, secretary and treasurer, P. D. Jones, A. O. Dalrymple, John VanDorn, C. W. Ogden, and John F. Connors, Esq. L. D. Chase is the present pastor, and A. F. Colburn, Presiding Elder.





ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

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BY REV. ARTHUR E. WHATHAM, RECTOR.

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The building, whose history I am about to narrate, is one of the handsomest ecclesiastical edifices in the diocese of Western New York. Of Gothic form, excellently proportioned, with tall and gracefully tapering spire; standing back on a grass covered lawn studded with magnificent chestnut and elm trees, it presents a noble monument to the generosity of those who caused it to be erected.

The first meeting of churchmen recorded in the entry-book kept by the various vestry clerks, was convened for the purpose of incorporating the said persons as a Church, to be known as St. John's Church, Mount Morris. The meeting was held on Easter Wednesday, A. D. 1833. The Rev. Thomas Meacham, at that time in definite charge of St. Mark's Church, Hunts Hollow, had been holding occasional services in the village school house, where this vestry meeting was held. After the certificate of the organization of St. John's Church had been forwarded to, and duly recorded by the Clerk of Livingston County, Mr. Meacham was invited by letter to become the first resident clergyman of the proposed St. John's Church, for although there was then a body of worshippers of that name, they had not as yet any dedicated place of meeting under that title. The vestry which invited Mr. Meacham was composed of the following members: David A. Miller, secretary, John

W. Montross, Walker M. Hinman, Phineas Canfield, Stephen Summers, Charles B. Stout, James F. S. Heald, and Hiram Hunt, with Jellis Clute and Nehemiah Barlow as wardens. Mr. Meacham, accepting the call, became the first Rector of Mount Morris, March 3, 1834. With commendable zeal the members set about raising subscriptions for their first church which was soon erected on the south east corner of Chapel and Stanley streets, the corner stone being laid for the Rt. Rev. Benjamin Onderdonk, bishop of New York, by Rev. Henry J. Whitehouse, D. D., July 3, 1835. The Rev. Thomas Meacham resigning in 1837, the vestry invited Rev. Henry S. Atwater to be their next Rector, who accepted the post May, 1837. At a vestry meeting held the 14th of August, 1837, it was resolved to ask the bishop of the diocese to consecrate the church, which was done on the 19th of the same month. On December 18, 1839, the vestry passed a resolution of condolence to be sent to the family of the deceased warden, Colonel Wm. Fitzhugh. From the wording of the message of sympathy the deceased must have been a high-souled christian gentleman, whose loss to the entire community must have been deeply felt, and especially by the church in which he took so lively an interest.

On June 29, 1843, Rev. Charles Cooper was invited to the pastorate, which had become vacant. Mr. John R. Murray's name first appears upon the records as an officer of the church in April 1844. On December 21, 1846, Mr. Cooper resigned, and Rev. M. VanRensselaer, D. D., LL. D., took charge in 1847. In 1849 the vestry consisted of the Rector, D. A. Miller and F. A. Davis, wardens, W. Hinman, S. Summer, J. Peterson, J. Vernon, J. R. Murray, Reily Seoville, Hiram P. Mills, Henry Swan, vestrymen, James B. Bacon, treasurer and collector. In 1850 Mr. C. L. Bingham, who subsequently took such



keen interest in all church affairs, appears as a member of the vestry, and also as occupying the post of clerk and treasurer. The name of Charles H. Carroll appears on the list of vestrymen in 1852. Dr. VanRensselaer resigning in 1853, the Rev. J. L. Franklin, D. D., was invited to take charge, which he did in the latter end of the year.

In 1854, owing to the increased membership of the church, it was found necessary to enlarge the building to accommodate the growing congregation. I may here mention that the following gentlemen were on the original building committee: D. Miller, S. Summers, P. Canfield. The builder was W. Hinman, the architect, W. Hamlin, and the mason, Isaac Kemball. Mr. Murray offered \$1,500 for the church and lot, proposing to give another lot whereon the vestry might build a new church. He subsequently modified this proposition as follows: The vestry was to sell him the church and lot, paying him as well the sum of \$1,500. For this he agreed to build a new church upon another lot, the plans thereof being left to him to decide. The vestry accepted this proposition April 13, 1854. In 1856, Miss Hunt, who had been organist for several years, resigned, and Miss Hinman was elected in her place. On the 18th of September, the handsome new church, built where it now stands, was consecrated by Bishop DeLancy, of Western New York. A letter from Mrs. Murray was read at the vestry meeting of January 5, 1857, offering the church a lot whereon to build a parsonage, and an additional gift of \$1,000. The offer was accepted. Mr. Annis was sexton of the church in 1857. On July of this year Mr. Bingham resigned the office of clerk to the vestry, which he had held for the past seven years, being heartily thanked by the vestry for the able and satisfactory manner in which he had discharged his duties. Mr. McNeil Seymour was appointed in his place. At a vestry

meeting, September 20, 1860, Judge Carroll stated that his daughter, the lately deceased Ada V. R. Carroll, had bequeathed the sum of \$500, to be invested for a Sunday school and parish library. The bequest was accepted with grateful feelings by the vestry, which tendered to the Judge and his family their deepest sympathy in their painful bereavement. We have often heard how fully such a resolution was warranted on account of the loss of so excellent a daughter and such a devoted christian worker. In 1863 a vote of thanks was passed and conveyed to Miss Crevling for her services in singing in the choir. In 1865 Mrs. A. Conkey was president of the St. John's ladies society.

Another meeting took place July 24th, to elect a new warden in the place of Judge Carroll, lately deceased. The following is part of the resolution passed and conveyed by the vestry to the members of his family: "Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God in his wise providence to take from us our esteemed and beloved friend and colleague, the Hon. C. H. Carroll; and whereas, the simplicity, earnestness and steadfastness of his christian character, his uprightness, integrity and benevolence, etc., all entitled him to our highest esteem and regard. Resolved, that, in token of our sorrow for so great a loss, our church be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days." In 1866, a legacy was left for the Sunday school library by Mrs. Scoville, (\$100.) In this year, L. C. Bingham was elected clerk to the vestry, and Miss Cook was organist; also H. E. Brown appears on the vestry for the first time, while H. P. Mills is recorded as warden under this date. This vestry appointed D. N. Bacon as sexton, and also passed a resolution to present Mr. C. L. Bingham with a suitable prayer book, as a token of gratitude for his valuable services as treasurer, so efficiently rendered for several years. The name of William

Fitzhugh appears amongst those appointed to attend the diocesan Convention for 1865.

Mr. Ozro Clark's name appears on the vestry in 1868, where it is to be found until the close of the year 1889. R. H. Brooks appears on the records for the first time, as a member of the vestry, in 1869. In April 1870, he was elected warden in conjunction with Mr. H. P. Mills. A notice appears of a vestry meeting summoned May 21, 1870, to fill the place of the Hon. McNeil Seymour, deceased. In 1871, the Hon. and Mrs. J. A. Mead, presented the church with a valuable communion set in memory of their daughter. The Rev. Dr. Franklin having resigned after a pastorate of nearly eighteen years, Dr. Van-Bokkelen was called, as Rector, August 14, 1871. On May 12, 1873, C. F. Swan was appointed collector and treasurer. The Rev. F. B. Dunham became pastor, January 17, 1875, resigning February 15, 1877. The following interesting record occurs under date January 17, 1876: To the Fire Department, Mount Morris—Gentlemen: We desire to express to you our sincere thanks for your energy and promptness in coming to our rescue on Sunday night last, when our beautiful church was in such imminent peril of destruction by fire. James Yeomans, clerk. This resolution of thanks was put into the village papers.

The vestry, which had been elected the previous year, contained several new names, such as W. W. Potter, C. C. Fitzhugh, Arthur Sawyer, etc. The next Rector was Rev. George S. Teller, who was in charge from 1877 to 1879. On September 11, 1877, M. R. Campbell, upon his leaving the neighborhood, was presented with the thanks of the vestry for his past valuable services, as a member of the choir. On March 12, 1875, the vestry considered a communication received from John R. Murray, requesting that his wife, lately deceased,

might be buried according to her wish in the church yard. This was readily assented to, the vestry making arrangements for conveying to Mr. Murray, that portion of ground, signified by him, as a burial lot in perpetuity. It was in this way that the original donors of the greater part of the present church property, came to be laid in their last earthly resting place near the House of God for which they had done so much during their lives. The spot is marked and kept sacred by a handsome granite stone, surrounded by chains suspended from iron stanchions. Rev. Dr. Massey was called, and took charge November, 1879. On November 19, 1881, Dr. Massey informed the vestry, that some unknown persons had offered the church a solid silver communion set. The offer was gratefully received. Mr. Murray's name appears on the vestry, as warden, under date April 1881. In December of the same year, the vestry met to appoint another warden, in the place of Mr. Murray, deceased. Dr. Massey resigned the rectorship in August, 1882. At a vestry meeting held July 1, John M. Prophet first appears on the vestry, July 1882. Rev. E. W. Worthington was called as the next Rector, September 28, 1882. It was decided to place windows in the church to the memory of the Murrays and Judge Carroll. For this purpose, the sum of \$222.30 was subscribed, and the windows subsequently placed in position. In 1885 Miss Hattie Hinman was appointed collector and treasurer of the parish. Mr. Parker, at this time, ceased to be sexton, and Robert Stevenson was elected to fill his place. On April 1, 1887, the pews in the church were made free. In October of the same year, Mr. Worthington resigned, and Rev. C. A. Ricksecker was called to take his place, January 14, 1888. After serving the church for 38 years, the death of L. C. Bingham is recorded under date, March 12, 1888. A fire occurred in the church, Saturday, January 25, 1890. The death of Col.

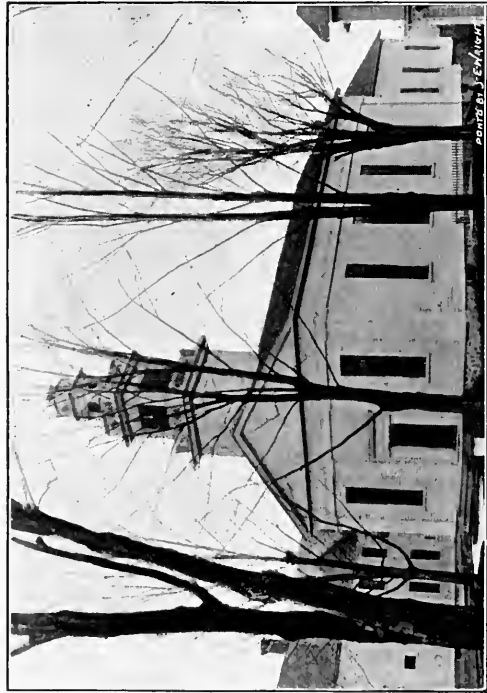
W. M. Hinman is recorded under date of April 26, 1891, and a resolution was passed and conveyed to the family of the deceased expressing their deep sympathy and high appreciation for the late warden, who for fifty-eight years had so faithfully served the interests of his church. On September 6, 1893, E. Fitzhugh was elected by the vestry to represent the church at the diocesan convention that year. In October 1893, Mr. Ricksecker resigned, and Rev. A. E. Whatham took charge May 7, 1894. Mrs. Howell's request to place a window in the church to the memory of her son, was read by the vestry, November 6, 1893, and cordially agreed to. During Mr. Ricksecker's charge of the parish, he was instrumental in erecting a large and beautiful parish house, which reflects great credit upon himself, and those members of the congregation and friends who generously subscribed to so necessary an adjunct of essential parochial machinery.

Besides the gentlemen already mentioned, the following have held office on the vestry: W. B. Rogers, Milton Case, J. Thurston, B. W. Rogers, Jr., John Murry Ogden, Gaylord Willsey, A. W. Watkins, Asa P. Edhecombe, Wm. Fitzhugh, D. H. Fitzhugh, T. G. Mills, W. G. Sheldon, Sanford Hunt, Jr., Alex. H. Hoff, Albert Case, C. C. Goodall, Hubbard Foster, H. D. Bath, Jos. Garlinghouse, A. Conkey, J. H. Mead, C. B. Adams, R. H. Moses, S. S. Eddy, J. E. White, J. H. Bodine, W. H. Swan, Wm. R. Hinds, H. C. Lester, William Harding, W. H. Humphrey, N. A. Seymour, H. H. Scoville, P. W. Neefus, M. D., Ed. W. White, Allen Ayrault, R. S. White, M. B. Turpin, E. C. Seymour, A. Harris, W. B. Todd, E. F. Fitzhugh. At the present time there are, besides myself, as Rector, wardens, H. P. Mills and J. M. Prophet; vestrymen, H. E. Brown, R. H. Brooks, A. Harris, H. H. Scoville, E. C. Seymour, W. H. Humphrey, A. Sawyer, clerk and treasurer, and

E. F. Fitzhugh; sexton, R. Stevenson; organist, Miss M. Hinman; collector, Miss Emma White.

We have a quartette choir, consisting of Mrs. Ellicott, Miss Lily White, Dr. Albert Leach, and J. White. All these render voluntary service, which is highly appreciated. Our Sunday school is presided over by the Rector, assisted by Mrs. Prophet, Miss J. Mills, Miss L. White, Miss E. White, Mrs. Whatham, Mr. A. Sawyer, and Mr. J. White. Our Church Guild consists of: Mrs. Bradbury, vice-president; Miss Isabella Mills with Miss Jennie Mills, secretary and treasurer; the other officers being, Mrs. A. Sawyer, Mrs. H. E. Brown, and Mrs. F. LaRue. Of the other lady members, there are so many, and their activity so great, that space is not available to narrate all that could be told. Up to my time of writing I have been in charge of the parish just six months. Everything is running smoothly, and so far as I know, the greatest cordiality and good will abounds. I earnestly pray that the present aspect of affairs may long continue, and that God will be pleased to bless abundantly all efforts put forth in His service by both pastor and people.





BAPTIST CHURCH.



## THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

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BY HON. O. D. LAKE.

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In attempting to give a history of the Baptist church of Mount Morris village, we are met at the outset with the impossibility of giving a correct account of its history for the first twenty years of its existence, from the fact that the records of the church for that period have been lost.

Previous to the organization of this church, there existed a small Baptist Church in the town of Groveland, occupying what was called the Norton school house as a place of worship. After an existence of a few years its organization was abandoned, and on March 1st, 1839, they united with others in forming the Baptist Church of this village.

Among those from Groveland were Deacon Alba Thorp (Afterwards Rev. Alba Thorp,) and wife, Asahel Norton and wife, Calvin Norton, Henry Turner and Philo Mills. These, with Deacon John Burt and wife, Doctor Ebenezer Childs and wife, Benjamin Bills and wife, Mr. Steadman and others, constituted the Baptist Church of Mount Morris village.

Its present church edifice is believed to have been built in 1842 by Edwin Stilson, of the Ridge, the expense of which is not now known. The usual services were had at its dedication, the sermon being preached by that noble, learned and aggressive pioneer minister, Rev. Elon Galusha, then pastor of

the Baptist church, of Perry, and a son of a former governor of Vermont.

The pulpit was in the north end of the church, with seats facing it, and raised seats at the south end for the choir; so that many of the audience were in doubt, whether it was proper to turn and face the choir while singing, or remain as they rose, but they usually settled it by each one doing as he pleased. Some years subsequent to this, an addition was put on the south end of the house, and the pulpit placed at that end, and the seats changed, with elevated seats for the choir at the north end. In the year 1873, the present lecture room and organ loft were built, and an organ placed therein, at an expense of \$2,300, all of which was promptly paid. The recent improvements in painting the church, and placing new steps at the front, are largely due to the untiring efforts of our esteemed pastor, Rev. M. W. Hart.

In regard to the spiritual interests of the church, it can be said that they have enjoyed extensive revivals in its history, and especially in 1848. A deep religious interest prevailed at that time. The pastor, Rev. Chas. L. Bacon, was assisted in his labors by that noble, though somewhat eccentric man, the late Rev H. K. Stimson, by whose united labors, seconded by the blessing of God, about fifty persons were added to the church, and among them was the present superintendent of our Sabbath school, H. W. Miller. Other revivals were enjoyed, and additions were made from time to time, thus affording spiritual and material aid. There has been no material change in the number of its members since 1844, ranging from 159 at that time to 170 in later years.

It is believed that a Sabbath school has been maintained ever since the church was organized, but as no record is found, nothing can be said of it until about 1850, when the late Hon. R.

P. Wisner became its superintendent, which place he held with usefulness to the school and honor to himself, for more than twenty years. During a religious revival in the year 1843, he united with this church, and remained a member of the church of his adoption until his death. He was greatly interested in the young people. He was a whole-souled man, warm-hearted and sympathetic, ever ready to help the poor and needy. He was a leader without assuming the leadership in any department of christian work. He contributed liberally to the support of the church and all benevolent objects. He was a gentleman of the old school, courtly and graceful in manner, loyal in all his church relations, a firm believer in all the doctrines of the Bible. The church deeply mourned his loss as a judicious and safe adviser, in all religious matters. His palatial home was ever open to all classes. It was truly a Bethel to all ministers of the gospel of Christ. The writer saw Mr. Wisner a day or two before he died, and the last words that fell from his lips were "Stand up for Jesus." After his death in 1872, Doctor Z. W. Joslyn was elected superintendent, which place he held with peculiar ability and success, until his death, in 1889. Further mention of Dr. Joslyn would be made here, if it were not for the fact that a biographical sketch of him is inserted elsewhere in this volume. Upon his death, Mr. H. W. Miller was elected, as his successor. It is the earnest prayer of the church, that he may be spared many years to preside over our school. His manly christian spirit is a powerful force which makes for peace and righteousness.

The pastors of the church and their terms of service have been as follows: Rev. Mr. Blakesly, 1839-1840; Rev. Marcena Stone, D. D., 1840-1845; Rev. Charles L. Bacon, 1845-1850; Rev. O. I. Sprague, 1850-1853; Rev. Charles Keysor, 1853-1854; Rev. D. Bellamy, 1855-1859; Rev. J. H. Griffith,

D. D., 1859-1861, (supply); Rev. J. J. Keyes, 1861-1863; Rev. A. A. Russel, 1863-1865; Rev. C. J. Thompson, 1865-1870; Rev. David Crosby, 1871-1872; Rev. H. A. Delano, D. D., 1873-1874; Rev. Philip S. Moxom, D. D., 1875-1879; Rev. S. D. Moxley, 1879-1885; Rev. A. Chapman, 1885-1886 (supply); Rev. D. P. Brown, 1886-1888; Rev. H. M. Tefft, 1888 (supply); Rev. F. A. Martin, 1888-1889; Rev. M. W. Hart, 1889; and, in this large number of names, the church regards itself fortunate, that, though differing in ability and usefulness, they were thoroughly devoted to their profession.

The following is a partial list of those who have served the village church as trustees and deacons:

*Trustees*.—Ebenezer Childs, M. D., William Begole, Charles Wood, O. D. Lake, Z. W. Joslyn, H. W. Miller, A. Palmer, H. W. Burt, Nathan Smith, A. J. Moss, R. P. Wisner, Nathan D. Bills, William Tallman, John Simerson, C. F. Braman, J. A. Lake, J. L. Dodge, Justus J. Guile, J. C. Winters, W. H. Nott.

*Deacons*.—Henry Turner, Edwin Stilson, John Burt, Augustus Palmer, William Thorp, O. D. Lake, A. B. Millard, Perry Wisner, James L. Dodge, Hubbard Kelsey.

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## BAPTIST CHURCH AT THE RIDGE.

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BY HON. O. D. LAKE.

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In connection with the history of the Baptists in this town it may not be out of place to say, that the first Baptist church in this town was organized at the Ridge, on the twenty-first day of June 1823, with a small number of members. Their

meetings were held in school houses and private dwellings, and a part of the time were supplied with preaching by Rev. Samuel Messenger, of Portage, Rev. Elijah Bennett, and Deacon Daniel Wisner, a licentiate of Nunda. In the fall of 1827, they built a log meeting house at the Ridge, near where the present church now stands. It was large and well furnished with seats and stoves, and was a comfortable place of worship at all seasons of the year, and was the first house built in the town expressly for public worship. It was used for that purpose until the present church was built by them, in 1834, the late Edwin Stilson being the contractor, at the price of \$1,700.

The first baptism in this church was that of Captain Lewis Mills and his wife, from the Presbyterian church. In August 1832, a powerful revival commenced and meetings were held for several days, conducted mostly by Rev. O. H. Reed and Rev. Warner Lake, and resulted in the addition to the church by baptism of seventy-six persons, between the 25th day of August, 1832, and the 21st day of April, 1833, forty-four persons having been baptised in one day by Rev. Warner Lake and Rev. O. H. Reed, and among them many of the most influential citizens of that part of the town. Others united by letter so that at this time, 1833, the church numbered one hundred and sixty. This church continued prosperous, and maintained public worship with settled pastors until about 1849, when, by the removal of many, and others joining the village church, it was deemed best to abandon its organization, which was done, and the church edifice sold to the Methodist Episcopal church, who now occupy it as a place of worship. The pastors of this church during its existence were: Rev. Ransom Harvey, Rev. Warner Lake, Rev. Amos Chase, Rev. James Shute, Rev. Henry Bowen, Rev. Isaac Fargo, Rev. H. G. Mosher. All of whom were worthy and successful ministers of Christ.

## ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.

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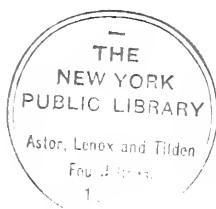
BY REV. JAMES H. DAY.

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About the year 1838, the first Catholic services were held in Mount Morris. The Catholics had no church here at that time, nor a resident pastor. Father McGuire was, as a sufficiently reliable tradition has it, the first priest to administer to the spiritual wants of these originators of St. Patrick's Church. He was succeeded by other priests, who came from Buffalo, Rochester, Lima, Portage and Dansville. Services were held in private houses, among them John Toole's in Damonsville, Thomas Sloan's on Conkey street, Keron Ryan's on Hopkins street, and James Hart's on the Flats. As work in the construction of the Genesee Valley canal, which brought most of them here, moved in the direction of Tuscarora, then known as Brushville, a small church was erected there, on ground, the use of which was donated by Judge Carroll, of Groveland. When operations on the canal ceased, services there were discontinued, as the members came back to Mount Morris in 1842, and the little church was subsequently torn down. Being poor and few in numbers they did not rebuild until 1851. During those nine years, services were again held in private houses, in the old school house and in Green's Hall. Among the priests, who came occasionally to say mass and preach for them were the Rev. Bernard O'Reilly, of Rochester, who afterwards became



ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.





Bishop of Hartford, and perished at sea on his return from Europe, in 1856, Fathers O'Connor of Buffalo, Maguire of Lima, Edward O'Flaherty and Charles Tierney of Dansville, McEvoy, Barker, D. D., and Carroll of Rochester, Dolan and Moore of Portage, and Fathers McKennas, Murphy and Sheehan of either Buffalo or Rochester.

Under the Rev. Father Maguire, the first church was built on the site now occupied by the parsonage, and facing Chapel street. It was a very small structure, but was subsequently enlarged two or three times to meet the demands of increasing membership. Rev. James Ryan, who came here in 1857, was the first resident priest in Mount Morris. Owing to poor health and an extensive mission, which included several of the neighboring towns, the Rev. J. Z. Kunz assisted him for a short time. Father Ryan remained only a year and was succeeded by the Rev. Bernard McCool, who also had an assistant, at one time, in the person of the Rev. John Vahey, at another, in the person of the Rev. R. Stack.

The Rev. Richard J. Story, now pastor of the Catholic Church at Brockport, N. Y., succeeded Father McCool, whose pastorate continued less than a year. Father Story remained in charge four years. Accordingly, in 1862, a new pastor came in the person of the Rev. Daniel Moore, who was no stranger to the people of Mt. Morris, from the fact that he had attended them formerly, but for a short time, from Portage. Father Moore remained until March, 1866, when the Rev. Edward McGowan was appointed his successor. Father McGowan held the charge until 1869, when Rev. David O'Brien succeeded him. Under Father O'Brien the house and lot on the corner of Chapel and Stanley streets, owned by Jas. Conkey, and adjoining the lot on which the church stood, were purchased. The old church was moved back and made into a barn and is

used for that purpose now. The house, which stood on the corner, was moved and placed on the site of the old church and enlarged. The new church was then built on this corner lot. It is a brick structure, the dimensions of which are 43x100 feet, with a high tower, the base of which is twelve feet square, excluding abutments. The corner stone of the church was laid in the fall of 1869, and the church was dedicated in February, 1874. Father O'Brien also established a school in the vestry of the old church, but discontinued it after a year. This vestry is the wooden building in the rear of the present church and now again used for a vestry.

Father O'Brien left about the first of March, 1874, and was succeeded by the Rev. M. M. Meagher, who remained in charge a little over a year. His successor was the Rev. J. J. Donnelly, now pastor of the Catholic Church at Victor, N. Y. Father Donnelly was appointed pastor of the churches at Mt. Morris, Geneseo and Nunda on August 1st, 1875, and continued in charge until the summer of 1882. In the first year of his pastorate he was assisted for three months by the Rev. Thomas J. O'Connell, now pastor of the Catholic Church at Ovid, N. Y. Father Donnelly was succeeded by Rev. Chas. Flaherty, during whose time the church was frescoed, new pews and two side-altars were put in, cement sidewalk was laid in front of the church and seventeen and seventy-four one-hundredths acres of land on Murray St. were purchased for a cemetery. Rev. James H. Day, the present pastor, was appointed May 1st, 1893.

Before the Conkey house was purchased for a parsonage the congregation rented at one time the house now occupied by J. F. Donovan on Stanley St., in the rear of the Methodist church; at another time, the house on the corner of Chapel and Eagle Sts., now occupied by T. J. Gamble, Esq.; at another, the house now occupied by Asa Dalrymple on Hopkins St.

The Trustees of the church are the Bishop of the diocese, his Vicar-General, the pastor and two laymen, members of the parish. The present lay-trustees are N. E. DeLany and John McMahon. The following gentlemen have served as trustees in the past, for periods ranging from 1 to 23 years: Cornelius O'Leary (father of Timothy C. O'Leary of Damonsville), Richard Burke, James Hart, Daniel Riordon, Dennis Evans, Timothy Hennessy, M. J. Noonan and Peter Schirmer. M. J. Noonan served twenty-three years and John Noonan less than one year.

The estimated value of the church property, including the cemetery, is \$25,000. The present membership is about two hundred families.

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## SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

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FROM HISTORY OF ROCHESTER PRESBYTERY.

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The Second Presbyterian Church of Mount Morris, was organized by a committee of the Presbytery of Ontario, in 1830, and was received under its care, in January, 1831. Among its original members, were Moses Marvin and Ann, his wife, Harriet Speas, Fanny Roland, and Anna Sharp. Sylvester Richmond and Lucy, his wife, and Milo H. Maltbie and Jerusha, his wife, united soon after the church had been organized.

Rev. Elam Walker was the first minister, and the church was much prospered by his labors. He was followed by Rev. Messrs. Hall, Ward and Lindley. The ruling elders were Moses

Marvin, Sylvester Roland, and Clark Mather. The deacons were Moses Marvin, and Sylvester Roland. The church maintained a prayer meeting, also a Sabbath school, of which Sylvester Roland and J. McCreary were superintendents. The largest number of members, at any one time, was about fifty. This society never erected a church edifice, but united with a school district in the erection of a house, which was used, both for church and school purposes; and which was situated five miles south of Mount Morris village, on the west side of the state road. Owing to the organization of a Dutch Reformed Church, in that neighborhood, this church was disbanded about the year 1839.

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## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OF TUSCARORA.

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BY REV. A. MCQUEEN.

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This church was organized in 1839, according to the Dutch Reform order, by Rev. Israel Hammond. In 1844, the society was incorporated, and the present house of worship was erected. In the year 1846, it was re-organized, as the Second Presbyterian Church of Mount Morris, having the following members: Wm. H. Cownover, Jacob Petrie, Peter VanNest, Garrett Cownover, John Michael, George S. Kershaw, Isaac VanDeventer, William Post, Charity VanDeventer, Juliana Dodge, Susan Kershaw, Parmela Powers, Margaret C. Howell, Ida Post, Anna Conklin, Jane Birch, Elizabeth VanNest, Catharine

Cownover, Ann VanOrsdall, Sarah VanAuker, Mary Milholen, Sarah H. Cownover, Sarah Ann Lashel, Eleanor Howell, Francis I. Howell, Ketura Davis, Catharine C. Michael. The following persons were ordained elders: Aaron Cownover, William Howell, James Conklin, Stephen Birch. Deacons: William N. Hall, William VanDeventer and Aaron Davis. The church was received under the care of the Presbytery of Ontario, June 2, 1846.

From the time of re-organization till October, 1851, the church enjoyed the ministrations of the Rev. Peter S. VanNest, and during this time changed its relation from Ontario Presbytery, New School, to Wyoming Presbytery, Old School. September 2, 1852, the Rev. Thomas L. Dewing became its pastor, and was installed, October 20, 1852, and remained one year. In the year 1852, the church changed its name from the Second Presbyterian Church of Mount Morris, to the Presbyterian Church of Tuscarora. In November, 1853, Rev. Washington D. McKinley commenced his labors, as stated supply, resigning his charge in August, 1864. In January, 1865, Rev. Robert W. McCormick became pastor, remaining with the church until September 1869. In May 1870, the church of Tuscarora formed a union with the Presbyterian Church of Union Corners and William E. Jones was pastor of the united church for about three years, from June 26, 1870. In the interim of vacancies, the church had various supplies for a brief period. In 1875, the church severed its connection with the Union Corners Church and called Rev. Silas McKinney, who ministered about three years, and was succeeded by Rev. John Mitchell, January, 1880, who also ministered for the term of three years, both of them as stated supply. During Mr. Mitchell's term of service, G. C. Conklin and E. Marsh Petrie were ordained elders. Rev. William F. Millikan was installed, March 20, 1883, remaining

two years. October 18, 1885, Rev. T. H. Quigley commenced his labors, and remained as stated supply, until March 22, 1891. April 14, 1891, by the request of the churches, the Presbytery of Rochester consolidated the church of Union Corners with the church of Tuscarora. From November 1, 1891, G. W. Wesselius supplied the pulpit for six months. February 5, 1893, Rev. Allan McQueen was invited to minister to the church, and he accepting the invitation, is its present supply.

Its present board of elders consists of, William Hall, Garret C. Conklin, E. Marsh Petrie, and Andrew Sedam. For the past few years, the church has suffered by deaths and removals so that its numbers are depleted and its financial resources are crippled, yet it has steadily maintained its standing. Adjoining the church lot, the society owns a comfortable parsonage. The Sabbath school was organized in February, 1846. Its present superintendent is John Conklin. The present trustees of the society are Edward W. Petrie, Charles Whitenack and Wilson M. Creveling. The Y. P. S. C. E. was organized in January, 1894.

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## DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH.

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BY F. A. NORTHWAY.

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The Dutch Reformed Church of Mount Morris was organized in 1841, with the following members: Jacob Brinkerhoof and wife, Thomas Johnson and wife, James VanArsdale and wife, Nicholas P. VanHouten and wife, Andrew Whitnack and wife,

David Westervelt and wife, Peter VanDorn and wife, Peter Whitenack and wife, Abraham VanHouten and wife, Christian DeClark and wife, Jacob VanWagner, and Crawford Miller.

In the year 1847, the Rev. James G. Brinkerhoof became pastor of the church, coming to them from New Jersey. During the year, a house of worship, about 30 by 40, was erected and dedicated on Dutch street, about a mile north of Tuscarora. Jacob VanWinkle was the builder. Not many united with the church, and Mr. Brinkerhoof ceased his labors in 1860. The building then remained closed, excepting for funerals and occasional services, for twenty years; when in 1880 it was sold by Jacob VanWagner, he being the only one left of the society, to the Methodists of Union Corners, by whom it was taken down and re-constructed at Union Corners.

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## FREE METHODIST CHURCH, OF TUSCARORA.

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BY REV. A. MCQUEEN.

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The Free Methodist church of Tuscarora was organized in August, 1875, with about thirty members, by Rev. R. M. Snyder, the first pastor, who had held services from March previous, and sustained pastoral relations two years. He was succeeded by Rev. Wm. Southworth, who remained until the fall of 1880. Services were held in the school house. As no regular pastor succeeded Rev. Wm. Southworth, the organization gradually declined, and for some years has ceased to exist.

# ORGANIZATIONS.

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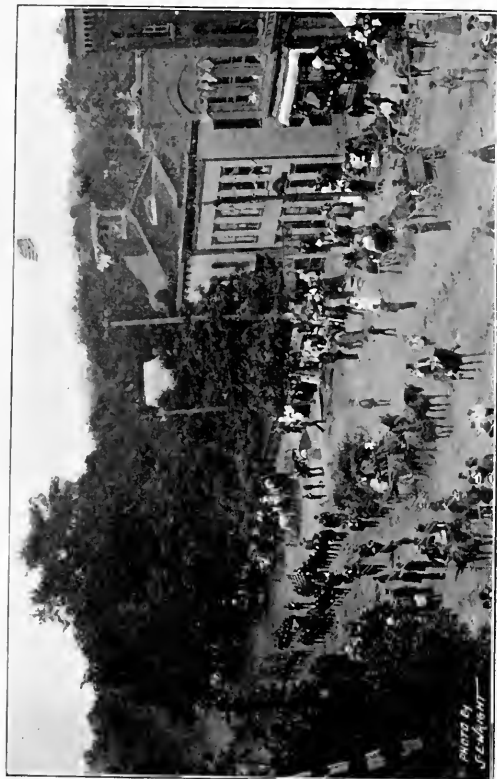
## THE UNION FREE SCHOOL.

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The Union School of Mount Morris was organized in 1844, by the consolidation of four districts. In 1845, the brick school house was built, at an expense of \$3,500, which was replaced in 1879, by the present one, at a cost of \$10,000. In 1857, at the suggestion of Lester Phelps, the question of re-organization was discussed, which resulted in the establishment of the Union Free School, in accordance with the act of 1853. The Board of Education elected at that time, consisted of: Norman Seymour, Jr., John Vernam, Loren J. Ames, Hiram P. Mills, Lorin Coy, Clark B. Adams, Reuben Sleeper, Zara W. Joslyn, and Thomas F. Wilcox. Those subsequently elected, from year to year, have been, W. H. Noble, C. L. Bingham, R. T. W. French, Charles Woodman, S. L. Rockfellow, J. H. Bodine, A. B. Millard, W. A. Mills, B. Swett, Wm. Sickles, H. W. Miller, M. H. Mills, W. Richmond, H. E. Brown, P. Yeomans, F. E. Hastings, A. P. Dean, H. Harding, Archibald McArthur, E. A. Mills, H. S. Wigg, W. H. Swan, J. J. Barrett, A. Ayrault, James Gamble, A. Long, J. H. Noonan, Dr. J. M. Hagey, J. M. Hastings, J. S. McNeilly, N. A. Seymour, J. W.







CENTENNIAL PARADE.

Sickles, Dr. F. B. Dodge, F. M. Joslyn, T. Hudson, J. M. Prophet, and C. P. Olp.

Since 1857, the list of Principals is as follows: I. McMahon, G. S. Hastings, F. E. Pierce, H. M. Smith, H. M. Morey, W. M. Benson, A. J. Thomas, R. Green, Z. A. Colburn, H. A. Balcom, H. Allison, W. H. Allen, W. P. Heston, I. O. Best, L. P. Bissel, B. Lewis, E. C. Stringer, J. F. Forbes, G. F. Slocum, W. S. Smith, E. A. Parks, G. A. Kneeland, J. S. Burritt, F. C. Cudebec, A. Mitchell, A. M. Curtis.

The following ladies have occupied the position of assistant in the academic department: Ann Clarke, Mary Green, Mary E. Joslyn, Jennie Chamberlain, Sarah A. Ford, Ann E. Kendrick, Sarah O. Peck, Catherine Hinman, Ella Bacon, Sabry Phillips, Emma Darling, Miss Salt, Miss Crane, Anna McBride, Frances Witter, Adelle Raynor, Anna M. Lewis, Rilla LaForge, Florence Brown, Mina F. S. Powers, Luella Robinson.

Besides the main building, on Chapel street, to which reference has been made, there are two other buildings to accommodate the younger pupils; one in the southern, and the other in the northern part of the village; which are also under the control of the Board of Education.

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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BY JOHN GORMAN.

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In the year 1836, the inhabitants of the village of Mount Morris, realizing the necessity of being protected against fire,

held a public meeting, in the month of August, and the sum of five hundred dollars was voted to purchase a fire engine, hooks and ladders. In the following month of September, the trustees of the village purchased a No. 3 rotary engine, from parties in Windsor, Vermont, which cost about three hundred dollars, and in February 1837, the first Fire Department was organized. The engine company consisted of twenty-four members, and the hook and ladder company of ten members. The initiation fee was seventy-five cents. Any member refusing to do duty was to pay a fine of two dollars. A chief engineer, assistant, and four fire wardens were chosen. Every house-keeper and shop-keeper were required to keep a leather and wooden fire bucket at the entrance to their premises. The first chief engineer was John N. Hurlburt, his assistant was Jesse Peterson. Reuben Sleeper was president of the village, and George Hastings, clerk. In September, 1852, at the burning of the Presbyterian church, the little engine, proving worthless, was, by the orders of John Vernam and Augustus Conkey, then trustees of the village, drawn into the fire and destroyed. The orders given were, "let her go boys." Of the members of the company, I know but little. I am informed, that the late Norman Seymour was a member and that he kept his certificate of membership, which he no doubt valued highly, as a memento of the first fire department of Mount Morris. The village engine having been cast into the fire on account of its failure to work, a line was formed, composed of men, women and boys, extending from the canal to the fire, and pails of water passed from one person to the next along the line, and in this manner the adjoining buildings were saved.

In those days, the fire companies were required to make a monthly report to the village trustees. In an old document is found the following:

“A report of engine No. 1., April 1, 1837. To the trustees of the village of Mount Morris: In compliance with the village ordinance, I now submit a brief report of the condition of our company. The fire engine and its apparatus is in good condition and ready for service at any time when it shall be wanted. Our company is full, consisting of twenty-four members, all present and ready for duty save two, who will be soon. The members of the company are not as yet provided with a fire hat, but will as soon as the law requires. The company has met for exercise once a month, every first Monday of the month. Ichabod Thurston, Captain; Moses Camp, Clerk.

In October, 1852, a large and enthusiastic meeting of the tax-payers of Mount Morris was held, for the purpose of devising some means of protection against fire. At this meeting, it was voted to raise \$1,200 to purchase a fire engine and hose, and the board of village trustees was directed to organize a fire department. The following December an engine, hose cart, and a quantity of leather hose arrived. This engine was known as No. 1. A company of forty men was ready to receive it. Dr. A. H. Hoff was foreman, and J. C. Vernam assistant; Henry Swan was chief engineer, and J. C. Goodrich assistant. The company adopted the name, “Genesee Chief, No. 1.” Soon afterwards a hose company was organized. About the same time, the sum of \$300 was raised by subscription, a second hand engine was bought at Rochester, and the second-engine company was organized, composed of about forty young men. Abraham Vernam was foreman, and C. E. Martin, assistant. This company adopted the name, “Water Witch No. 2.” The original subscribers to the purchase of the engine transferred all their right and title to the company on the following conditions: “That the company and engine should be under the control of the corporate authorities of the village, and not

disband for the term of three years, from the first of January, 1853." I remember well the time when this newly organized fire department, composed of two engine companies, and one hose company, in all one hundred men, handsomely uniformed, and the apparatus profusely decorated with flowers, appeared on our streets for the first time. In less than two years from its organization, Genesee Chief No. 1, disbanded. In January, 1855, the trustees of the village transferred to company No. 2, engine No. 1., on the conditions, that the company change its name and number, and transfer to the corporation all right and title in No. 2., the corporation to pay the company one hundred dollars. This proposition was accepted by the company, and the name "Water Witch No. 2," was changed to "Living Stream Engine Co. No. 1," and the motto "Onward to Save" was adopted.

In 1857 a new company was organized for No. 2. This company also adopted the name "Water Witch, No. 2," and retained this name up to 1860, when a new engine was purchased and old No. 2 exchanged as part payment. It may be worthy of note that, on the night of the arrival of the engine, one of the most destructive fires that ever visited Mt. Morris occurred, destroying, in all, ten buildings. On the arrival of the new engine, the company changed its name from "Water Witch" to "Neptune No. 2." At this time another hose company was organized and attached to "Neptune No. 2," each engine having a distinct hose company. These companies were known as "Empire Hose Co., No 1," and "Union Hose Co., No. 2." On the completion of the Mills Water Works, in 1879, Neptune Co. No. 2, deeming it unnecessary to continue its organization, disbanded, having been in service about nineteen years.

In March, 1873, the two hose companies united and adopted

the name "Independent Hose," and afterward changed to "Active Hose," which it has retained to the present time. In 1882 the company received a neat and substantial four-wheel hose carriage, capable of carrying about 800 feet of hose. It is furnished with hose pipes, lanterns, axes and rubber overcoats. The cart was built in Rochester and cost \$350, purchased in part by the company, the balance by an appropriation from the corporation.

In January, 1874, a hook and ladder company was organized, with C. O. Thomas, foreman; W. H. Gregg, assistant. The apparatus consists of a substantial truck, hooks and ladders, axes and four Babcock extinguishers. It was purchased in New York, with funds raised by subscription, and cost about \$700. The company and its apparatus have proved to be an indispensable part of the department. Of the original members, Charles Harding is the only one now a resident of this place who has remained a member up to the present time.

The Protective Fire Company was organized in March, 1875. The apparatus consisted of a bucket carriage, buckets, ladders, axe, bar, and two Babcock extinguishers. This company proved to be a valuable addition to the department, as with its light equipment it was enabled to reach a fire much sooner than the heavier and more complicated apparatus, and by a timely use of buckets and extinguishers, would succeed in extinguishing a light fire, and the drenching and damage caused by water from hose would be avoided. The carriage was built in this village, by the late A. P. Dean, and paid for in part by an appropriation from the corporation. This company was disbanded in December, 1892.

In 1883, by order of the board of village trustees, engine No. 1 was removed and replaced by No. 2, and good old No. 1, having fought many a hard battle and serving faith-

fully 31 years, was laid aside to rest. In 1884, by an act of the trustees of the village, No. 1 was changed into an engine and hose company combined, to be known as "Living Stream Engine and Hose Company, No. 1." This company is deserving of much credit for preserving a continuous organization from 1852 up to the present time, 1894. In 1856, the ladies presented the company with a handsome silk banner. It is inscribed on one side, "Presented by Ladies," on the other a large gilt star, under which are the words, "Our Hope." This banner is carefully preserved in the company's rooms.

The department consists of about seventy-five men. The apparatus is in good condition, with several hundred feet of substantial hose.

The companies have pleasant and tastily furnished rooms in the third story of the village building. The officers of the department and of the several companies are as follows :

Fire Department.—John Gorman, President; Frank E. Wakeman, Vice-President; Charles Harding, Secretary and Treasurer; J. C. Winters, Chief Engineer; Walter Sawyer, Assistant.

Living Stream Hose Company, No. 1.—William Patton, Foreman; John Bickford, Assistant.

Active Hose Company, No. 2.—George Norton, Foreman; Robert Croston, Assistant.

Hook and Ladder Company.—James S. McNeilly, Foreman; Charles Harding, Assistant.



## MASONIC LODGE.

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BY DR. F. B. DODGE.

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Mount Morris Lodge, No. 122, F. and A. M., was organized in 1847, with the following members: William D. Morgan, John Vernam, Joseph Faver, Eli Lake, Alfred Dean, Henry Maxwell, Ebenezer Damon, Elias B. Briggs, Walker M. Hinman, Prentice Pendleton, George G. Williams, David A. Miller, Samuel H. Fitzhugh, William M. Bond, George U. Williams and Harmon Howe.

The Lodge meetings were held in the Green Building for several years, when a removal was made to the Davis Block. The rooms in this block were occupied until 1874, when fire destroyed them; the Lodge losing all of its furniture, records and its Charter. A removal was then made to the Empire Block. On June 5th, 1874, the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, granted to this Lodge a duplicate Charter. The Charter was granted to James Yeomans, W. M.; Edward R. Bangs, S. W., and Isaac McNeilly, J. W. The Lodge continued to hold its meetings in the Empire Block until February, 1889, when fire again destroyed the rooms and all of its property. J. E. Lee Post, G. A. R., kindly offered the use of their rooms, and meetings were held in these rooms until the following June when the Lodge moved into its present quarters in the Mayer Block on Chapel street.

From the time of the granting of the duplicate Charter until 1878, James Yeomans continued to be Master of the Lodge. Upon the removal from town of Brother Yeomans, Dr. H. M. Dayfoot succeeded him. Brother Dayfoot served three years, when, upon his removal to Rochester, he was succeeded by W.

H. Humphry. Brother Humphry served as Master two years, and was followed by W. A. Sutherland, Esq., who served one year. Brother Sutherland is now Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. After Brother Sutherland, F. S. Peer served one year, and was followed by Charles W. Bingham, who served two years. Brother Bingham was followed by J. M. Hastings, who served one year; Brother Hastings by Louis O. Santmire, who served two years; Brother Santmire by John H. Burtis, who served two years, and who was followed by F. B. Dodge, who is now serving his second year.

Since the organization of the Lodge in 1847, it has had 437 members, of whom 84 are now in good standing. Samuel L. Rockfellow has been a Mason the longest of any person, now living in town, who was raised in this lodge. Wm. R. Annis has held the longest continuous membership, with Joseph P. Olp, second. Brother Rockfellow was raised July 27th, 1851; Brother Annis, February 18th, 1855, and Brother Olp, September 15th, 1855.

Owing to the fact that the Lodge rooms have twice been destroyed by fire, and the records burned, it is impossible to give a complete history of the Lodge and the names of all of its Masters. During its early history, Col. Hurlburt, McNeil Seymour and Lorin Coy graced the Master's chair. Among the names upon the roll of this lodge, the memory of that of Charles L. Bingham is "held in high veneration by the Craft," and the older members credit his administration, as Master, as the most brilliant in the history of the Lodge.

As it has been in all ages, the best men of the community have been members of this Lodge. Men who have been prominent in business, in the trades and professions, have been identified with this grand fraternal organization.

## BELWOOD LODGE, NO. 315, I. O. O. F.



For some time, a move had been on foot to establish a lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in the village of Mt. Morris; and on Tuesday, March 1, 1888, pursuant to a notice given, the Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge, of the State of New York, appeared and instituted Belwood Lodge, No. 315. Present, Fred W. Cole, Grand Master; James Terwilliger, Grand Secretary; H. M. Olmsted, Grand Conductor; G. W. Bennett, District Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Secretary called a list of petitioners for a Charter, and the following petitioners answered to their names: John H. Burtis, Jerome B. Hurlburt, John H. Brown, Edward W. Bangs, and Geo. S. Putnam. They were then duly instituted as Belwood Lodge, No. 315, of the State of New York, and proceeded to the election of officers, when the following officers were elected and installed: P. G., Geo. S. Putnam; N. G., John H. Burtis; V. G., Edward W. Bangs; Secretary, John H. Brown; Treasurer, Jerome B. Hurlburt; O. G., J. B. Royce; I. G., James Parkeson; R. S. N. G., F. H. Moyer; L. S. N. G., F. D. Brown; R. S. V. G., L. C. Crapsy; L. S. V. G., Peter Wyant; R. S. S., H. W. Hollister; L. S. S., E. J. Sickles.

The following members were admitted by card, Geo. M. Shull, Geo. S. Carr, James Parkeson, Jacob Tallman, A. J. Crissy, F. D. Brown, David Hurlburt, and Chas. Carpenter.

The following members were admitted by initiation: William R. Annis, Joseph Mason, Henry VanValkenburg, Edwin J. Sickles, Allen Ayrault, A. M. Baker, Leslie C. Crapsy, F. H. Moyer, J. B. Royce, H. W. Hollister, L. W. Cornwell, Peter

Wyant, William Patton, L. O. Santmier, Peter Chapman, S. T. Hayward, C. R. Warford, N. A. Seymour, F. P. Hinman.

Thus started one of the noblest institutions with which the village of Mount Morris was ever blest, and too much praise cannot be given the worthy brothers, who first undertook this noble work, and it has succeeded beyond their most sanguine expectations. At the second meeting of the Lodge, held March 8, 1888, a check for \$25 was received from Mrs. S. S. Howland with which to buy an altar, with her best wishes for the prosperity of Belwood Lodge, for which a vote of thanks was given Mrs. Howland, for her kind regards and present. At the meeting of March 22, 1888, the time for holding meetings was changed from Thursday to Tuesday evenings of each week. Fortune seemed to smile on Belwood Lodge, and her growth and prosperity was marvelous. There was not a cloud appeared on her horizon, until August 21, 1888, when the Lodge rooms were destroyed by fire, and again on Feb. 9, 1889, they were totally destroyed, together with contents, and the loss was heavy. To be burned out twice within one year was a hard blow to the young lodge, but by fortitude and perseverance, they overcame all obstacles and continued to grow and prosper.

The Lodge has suffered the loss by death of the following members, who were buried according to the rites of the order: Borthers J. B. Royce died March 12, 1889; Peter Wyant, July 6, 1889; James Beggs, September 20, 1889; David Hurlburt, November 8, 1889; C. B. White, February 16, 1890; Geo. B. Nixon, October 15, 1891; James Gorton, December, 1892; F. G. Wicker, October, 1892.

The following brothers are Past Grands of the lodge, and have justly earned their honorable title by faithful work and fidelity: John H. Burtis, E. J. Sickles, S. H. Jacobs, Geo. S. Putnam, L. J. Howell, E. W. Bangs, A. J. Crissy, Richard

Fraser, A. L. D. Campbell, Asa P. Wood, John H. Brown, F. D. Brown, H. W. Hollister, A. M. Baker.

The present officers of the Lodge are: N. G., E. M. Stroud, V. G., James Bush; Secretary, H. W. Hollister; Treasurer, E. J. Sickles; Warden, Earl Ayrault; Conductor, Mr. Harrington; R. S. N. G., E. W. Bangs; L. S. N. G., F. G. Moses; R. S. V. G., A. L. D. Campbell; L. S. V. G., James Stocking; R. S. S., L. M. Comfort; L. S. S., Jacob Nast; I. G., James Parkeson; O. G. Frank Titsworth.

During the six years of its existence, the Lodge has had a steady growth, and now has an active membership of eighty-five, and is in a very prosperous condition.

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## THE TWELVE BROTHERS.

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BY F. DAVIS, OF WATKINS, N. Y.

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On the evening of April 4, 1846, nearly half a century ago, twelve young men, residents of the village, some being in their minority, having completed their school life, met at the Eagle Hotel, then kept by Riley Scoville, father of the present proprietor, and organized themselves into a society, which they named the "Twelve Brothers;" the object being to cement for life their mutual friendship. At this meeting, they also resolved, that their walk through life should be strictly on the line of honor and probity, and that their actions should be such

as to meet the approval of Heaven, and the respect of all men with whom they might be brought in contact. A record was kept, and to a constitution, embodying the above, each signed his name, with age and birth place affixed. Following are the names: Frederick Davis, Jr., David M. Childs, John W. Hurlburt, Samuel W. French, Orson P. Allen, Herman W. Barnum, Augustus H. Mershon, William A. Teneyke, Samuel L. Rockfellow, Charles S. Vernam, Charles L. Burpee, and William D. Farnham. They further resolved to meet annually on the 28th day of December, at the same place, so long as life should be spared them, or, if impossible, to address a letter for reading by those present.

Several successive meetings were held and attended by most of the members; but as time progressed, and they became widely scattered, the oft repeated experience was realized, that it is much easier to make resolutions, than to keep them, so it was in 1871, a quarter of a century after the organization, when the next meeting was held. In the mean time, death had claimed three of the number and three were lost to view. Three, however, were present, viz.: Rockfellow, Davis, and Mershon (the later has since died), and letters were read from Childs, then in London, England, and from Barnum and Allen, who had been for many years missionaries in Asiatic Turkey. It is worthy of mention that those who met on this occasion, supped at the same table and in the same room, that the twelve occupied at their first meeting, a quarter of a century previous; also that Henry Scoville, who, as a boy, waited on them at their first meeting, attended them as landlord at this reunion. Since that date there has been no meeting, but the records are carefully preserved by Mr. Davis, who now resides in Watkins, New York.

A. O. U. W.

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The Ancient Order United Workmen, (A. O. U. W.,) is a fraternal protective association, making provision for widows and orphans, and not barring from its provisions those of near kinship nor relationship. As the first society of its kind in this country, it was organized in Meadville, Pa., in 1868, and numbers at present, about three hundred and fifty thousand. The certificates of membership are issued uniformly for two thousand dollars, to be paid at the death of the member, to such person or persons of near kin, as shall be designated in said certificate of membership. Genesee Valley Lodge, located at Mount Morris, N. Y., was instituted, January 30, 1878, with about twenty charter members, from some of the most active business men of the village, including such names as Dr. H. M. Dayfoot, W. H. Swan, Henry Gale, J. C. Winters, Hathorn Burt, John M. Prophet, C. F. Braman, Adam Seeh, C. H. Gladding, John and George White, and others. It has increased in numbers, influence and usefulness, and holds a prominent place in society. A. M. Baker is Deputy for Livingston county, and has been for a number of years. The present officers are: J. Walker, Master Workman; Thomas Baker, Recorder; and A. J. Crissy, Financier.

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SELECT KNIGHTS.

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The Select Knights are a similar organization to the A. O. U. W., but differing somewhat in their form of initiation, and

the amount of benefits, dress, etc., being semi-military in their parades, and attractive to young men who have a liking for a military show. In case a member becomes permanently disabled, either by accident or sickness, said member is entitled to one-half of the amount of his certificate; but in order to entitle him to the half benefit while living, he must pass a special examination of physicians appointed by the officers of the parent organization. The Order admits ladies' auxiliaries, and members of such auxiliaries are entitled to the same benefits as are guaranteed to male members. A subordinate Lodge, (Legion,) of the Select Knights was instituted in Mount Morris, September, 1885, through the active labors of A. M. Baker, with twenty-eight charter members, and including some of the most prominent men in the village and town, and others scattered in different parts of our county. Its officers are: A. J. Crissy, Commander; W. D. Pitt, Recorder; A. M. Baker, Recording Treasurer; J. M. Prophet, Treasurer.

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### EQUITABLE AID UNION.

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The Equitable Aid Union is another of these fraternal benefit societies, but differing from the A. O. U. W., and Select Knights, in its form of initiation, the amount of benefits, the age of admission, and the character of its members. It admits males and females alike, and pledges amount of benefits varying from two hundred and fifty, to three thousand dollars. It has a large membership in Mount Morris, and has distributed



thousands of dollars to the families of deceased members, and is doing much by its endowments in relieving the wants of the unfortunate living, as well as the aged. The Mount Morris branch, union 151, was organized in 1880, with such men and women as Dr. Henry Povall, George Wooster, Jacob Wagner, William M. Ostrander, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Austin, Mr. and Mrs. Ira T. Hollister, John H. Burtis, with a number of younger men, as charter members. Present officers: Daniel F. Russel, President; Mrs. Allie M. Campbell, Secretary; A. M. Baker, Accountant and Treasurer. The Ancient Order United Workmen, the Select Knights, and the Equitable Aid Union, have a beautiful hall fitted up in comely style, on Chapel street, where they each gather regularly at stated intervals, to transact business, and for social intercourse.

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### C. M. B. A.

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The Catholic Mutual Benefit Association was organized at Niagara Falls in July, 1876. Branch 94 was organized in Mt. Morris, April, 1886. The object of the Association is to improve the moral, mental and social condition of its members; to educate them in integrity, sobriety and frugality; to endeavor to make them contented with their position in life, and to aid and assist members of their families in case of death. Its officers are as follows: Spiritual Adviser, Rev. James H. Day; President, N. E. DeLany; Vice-President, J. A. Coultry; Treasurer, Fred Beuerlein, Jr.; Financial Secretary, Barney Beuerlein; Recording Secretary, W. H. O'Donnell.

EMPIRE KNIGHTS OF RELIEF.

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On the 24th day of February, 1891, there was instituted at Mt. Morris a Council of the above order, known as Alert Council, No. 25, with twenty-two charter members, viz: G. M. Shull, Frank. B. Dodge, James Gorton, Charles Gladding, Nathan Gladding, C. C. Willard, W. B. Todd, Allen Ayrault, George L. Carr, John Burtis, W. D. Pitt, V. C. Baker, S. E. Wright, J. L. White, W. H. Nott, Louis Santmire, Archibald Wasson, John H. Brown, M. Matteson, George S. Putnam, C. J. Mills, A. J. Crissy. After the three degrees had been conferred upon the above members by Frank E. Munger, Supreme Secretary, the following officers were elected for the first year: Commander, W. D. Pitt; Past Commander, F. B. Dodge, Secretary, S. E. Wright; Receiver, A. J. Crissy; Treasurer, James Gorton. The Empire Knights of Relief is an insurance organization which pays, on the death of its members, \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$3,000, has a graded assessment rate and levies one assessment each month. The main office of the order is at Buffalo, N. Y. Since the organization of Alert Council, one member has been removed by death, Brother James Gorton. Several brothers have removed from the town and been transferred to other Councils; this, coupled with two or three withdrawals, leaves Alert Council at the present time with but nineteen active members. Following are the officers at the present time: Commander, V. C. Baker; Past Commander, W. D. Pitt; Secretary, S. E. Wright; Receiver, A. J. Crissy; Treasurer, W. H. Nott.

## LIVINGSTON CLUB.

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This club was organized in April, 1892. Norman A. Seymour, with several other gentlemen, being satisfied that our beautiful village should have some place for social and literary intercourse, met and organized the above club, securing three large rooms in the Eagle Block on Main street. The following were the officers elected: President, Norman A. Seymour; Vice-President, Maurice J. Noonan; Treasurer, Frank E. Wakeman; Secretary, J. M. Murphy; Trustees, M. E. Gore, J. C. Winters, Thomas Hudson. The aforesaid officers, together with the following named gentlemen, constituted the list of charter members: F. C. Simerson, Geo. M. Shull, †C. L. Bingham, C. W. Bingham, J. M. Prophet, F. B. Dodge, F. W. DeCamp, J. C. Galbraith, H. E. Brown, F. E. VanDorn, J. M. Hastings, J. F. Connor, J. C. Dickey, Allen Ayrault, C. F. Braman, Jr., Eugene Ferris. The following gentlemen have since been admitted to membership: C. W. Gamble, Louis L. Galbraith, Dr. W. H. Povall, E. R. Creveling, G. S. Ellicott, N. N. Nast, D. F. Russell, O. C. Matteson, C. B. Galbraith, J. F. Donovan, S. S. Howland, Dr. Albert E. Leach, E. F. Fitzhugh, Howard Bingham. —†Deceased.

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## JAY E. LEE POST, NO. 281, G. A. R.

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BY ZALMON WRIGHT, OF MOUNT MORRIS, N. Y.

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This Post, which is located in Mount Morris, New York, was organized and chartered July 19, 1882, and named for a brave

and loyal volunteer, who served his country with credit and distinction during its most trying hours. Jay E. Lee was commissioned Captain of the 24th N. Y. Independent Battery, and served with the same until discharged at the close of the war. For the next three years following, he held the agency, and had charge of the New York State Soldiers Bureau, for claims at Washington, D. C. On his return to this place, he practiced law, until his health failed, and he died October 11, 1873, from disease contracted while in the service. The following are the names of the charter members of the Post: W. F. Devening, J. I. DeGroff, C. J. Perry, H. W. Claxton, M. L. Scoville, J. A. Ross, C. J. Mills, D. McCarty, Z. Wright, J. McArthur, C. D. Chilson, T. W. Parker, W. Kemp, J. J. Hillman, J. W. Sickles, J. T. Smith, H. Burt, Frank Fogey, G. M. Shull, W. Williams, Jas. Ryan, R. Talbot. The Post has lost by death, since its organization, six comrades, whose remains are lying in our cemetery, and it has on its roll, at the present, sixty-two comrades. The present officers of the Post are as follows: Zalmon Wright, Commander; James H. Kelley, S. V. Commander; Harvey G. Johnson, J. V. Commander; John H. Burtis, Quartermaster; Henry W. Claxton, Officer of the Day; Charles J. Mills, Adjutant; Lewis Bryant, Surgeon; John S. Baker, Chaplain; Jas. Ryan, Officer of the Guard; Dennis McCarty, Sergeant-Major; Jerome McArthur, Quartermaster-Sergeant. Its present Commander, Zalmon Wright, is Commissioned Aide-de-Camp on the Staff of John C. Shotts, Commander Department of New York, G. A. R.

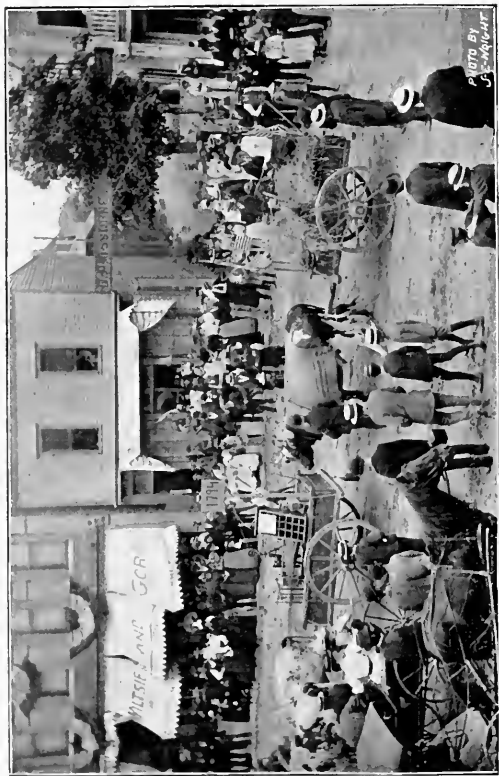
## ROLL OF HONOR.

The following is a list of those who were residents of Mount Morris, and enlisted in the volunteer service of the late war of 1861-1865:

\*Willis M. Ashton, Selner Armstrong, \*Prosper Annis, \*W. Aplin, Perry J. Ashton, \*George Atwood, John Q. Adams, \*Elijah Atwood, \*Col. Joseph H. Bodine, \*John Beggs, \*Lieutenant Albert M. Bingham, Warren Brady, Walter Burdick, George W. Barney, Jr., R. W. Barney, Parker Brooks, Kelsey Bergen, Henry Bliss, \*John Bliss, \*George Bingham, \*William Blood, Capt. John Burges, \*Capt. Charles Burt, \*Hathorn Burt, C. F. Braman, \*Wm. Beers, \*E. C. Camp, \*A. V. Cothrill, \*Emerson Crowley, Levi Cothrill, John Callahan, \*Michael Carroll, Lyman Crowley, B. S. Coffin, C. D. Chilson, H. G. Chamberlain, \*Wm. F. Carpenter, Thomas Conley, Jeremiah Cullinan, \*E. Elijah Coffin, Henry Crawford, Geo. Chambers, Geo. B. Calton, Henry W. Claxton, \*Cornelius Cassidy, Alexander R. Chichester, Almarian Crandall, Geo. H. Coffin, Frank Chilson, Wm. Chilson, Frank M. Chilson, \*Zebulon Doty, John I. DeGroff, Cornelius Donovan, \*Elvyrian P. Dalrymple, \*F. Manning Dalrymple, \*James Dale, Anthony Dunlavy, John Dunn, \*James Driscoll, \*A. P. Dean, \*Wilber Diffenbacker, John L. Daboll, B. F. Demming, Wm. H. Drake, Wm. H. Dart, Peter Drake, John Dunlavy, \*Edward M. Eastwood, W. H. Ellison, Giles Foote, Thomas Foose, Francis Flynn, \*W. Garrett, Patrick Galbraith, \*Henry J. Garrett, \*John Galbraith, \*Daniel Geary, Dwite Graham, \*Michael Graley, \*W. Gleason, Lieut. Henry Gale, \*Joseph Garlinghouse, Lieut. John J. Galbraith, Jacob Gunn, Theodore Gunn, Edward Hosmer,

\*Ira Hayes, \*Smith Hurlburt, Stephen Hayward, Lieut. Charles Harding, George Heliker, \*Henry Higgins, I. William Huggins \*Wilbur Hoyte, Charles House, Charles Hinman, \*Henry Hunt, Edward F. Hart, J. Wesley Hand, Henry W. Hand, Henry Harvey, William Hampton, Franklin Hayward, Sidney Hall, John Hagardorn, John Johnson, Walter Kemp, Frank Kelley, James H. Kelley, James Kane, W. S. Knappenberg, Hiram Loomis, Lieut. Herbert C. Lancy, \*Nicholas Laforce, Samuel Leddick, \*Capt. Jay E. Lee, Wm. Loomis, Henry Limrick, \*C. E. Martin, Rob't McNeilly, Franklin Morgan, Hiram Merithew, \*John Murdock, John Mead, \*Daniel Minnehan, Dennis McCarthy, \*Eugene L. Martin, \*Charles A. Martin, \*Thomas McNeilly, \*Archibald McArthur, Elikean Minor, Fenton McCarty, Michael Minnehan, Henry McArthur, \*Francis McWithey, \*W. Mack, Edsom Marshall, John Miller, Michael McCormick, W. McClerry, \*Samuel McNeilly, \*John V. Maltbie, John McCarthy, Jerome McArthur, Loren Morell, Henry McCollough, Joseph Malone, Frank Northway, Samuel Nichols, Wm. Nimbs, \*Thomas Nicholson, C. W. Ogden, \*Michael O'Brien, Charles Palmer, Calvin Palmer, Henry Phillips, Geo. S. Putnam, E. R. Parker, Thos. W. Parker, Welcome H. Pray, Timothy Phalen, Lieut. Oscar Phillips, Charles Peterson, Nelson Peterson, Wm. H. Peterson, \*Geo. W. Palmer, \*Frank Pierce, C. L. Putnam, Jacob Post, T. P. Powers, Leonard Quayle, \*Thomas Ryan, \*James Roberts, Nathaniel Rulapaugh, James Ryan, J. W. Rulapaugh, \*Edward D. Rogers, Gilbert Rulapaugh, \*Artemus Rathburn, \*Francis Redman, John T. Robinson, Benjamin Rowe, Leonard Reed, \*F. B. Russell, James W. Ransom, \*Frank Richardson, \*Smith Rogers, \*Alexander Rogers, Patrick Riley, \*Robert Shannon, \*George J. Stout, Florance Sullivan, \*Bartholmay Sullivan, Walter A. Scribner, \*Patrick Sullivan, John Skelley, John T. Smith, John W. Sickles, \*Col.





CENTENNIAL PARADE.



Mark L. Scoville, Riley Scoville, \*Capt. Howard M. Smith, \*Richard Shannon, \*Justine Smith, \*Lebanon Shank, Jas. Skuce, Frederick Simonds, Allen E. Shaw, Hiram Selover, Daniel Strain, James H. Shaw, \*John Scott, \*Hugh Skillen, \*John Slaight, L.L. W. Shaw, \*John Starkweather, \*Marsenus Stout, C. T. Stout, Jacob Steek, Ramulus Swift, J. W. Suydam, R. Talbot, Benjamin Travers, Lycurgus Twinning, Charles Voss, H. W. VanDerbilt, Geo. VanArsdall, \*Lieut. Henry Williams, H. A. Webster, \*Samuel Weightman, \*Isaac E. Williams, Wm. Williams, Wirt Winegar, Eugene Webster, William Welch, L. C. Willis, Charles B. Wheelock, \*Lieut. Edward Williams, R. Wiseman, John Welch, Lieut. Charles Wisner, Luther Whitenack, A. B. Wiley, Willard Weeks, Lanora Wilson, John Whitenack, Robert Welch, L. B. Wheelock, Asher Whitenack, John Williams, Oscar Willet, Col. R. P. Wisner, Samuel Yancer, Ambrose Yancer, James A. Yancer, Joseph Zwager.

—\*Deceased.

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## RECORD OF FIRST TOWN MEETING, APRIL 6, 1819.

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At a meeting of the free holders and inhabitants of the town of Mount Morris, Genesee county, and State of New York, pursuant to law, on the first Tuesday of April, 1819, for the purpose of choosing Town Officers and doing other necessary business; it was voted that, William A. Mills be the Supervisor; Horatio Read, Town Clerk; Allen Ayrault, Jesse Stanley, Aaron Adams, Assessors; Allen Ayrault, Oliver Stanley, Overseers of the Poor; Samuel Learned, Phineas Lake, Samuel Ranks, Commissioners of Highways; Horatio Read, Aaron

Adams, James B. Mower, Commissioners of Common Schools; John Brown, Constable and Collector; Phineas Lake, Amos Baldwin, Wm. A. Mills, James H. McNair, Aaron Adams, J. C. Jones, Wm. Lemmon, Fence Viewers; Ebenezer Dawson, Asa Woodford, John Sanford, David H. Pearson, Sterling Case, Road Masters; Abraham Camp, James H. McNair, Richard W. Gates, Eli Lake, Inspectors of Common Schools; Enos Baldwin, Pound Keeper.

Voted, That the Supervisor procure a town book, and raise money sufficient to obtain the public school money from the State.

Voted, To raise twenty-five dollars for support of the poor.

Resolved, That the following articles be constituted as the by-laws for the town of Mount Morris; adopted according to the act in such cases made and provided, namely.

Article 1. That the fee of Fence Viewers be one dollar per day for the time spent in any matter upon which they shall be called in their office, and in proportion for more or less time, but no fraction of a day to be reckoned as less than half.

Article 2. That no person shall suffer any Canada thistles to go to seed upon his premises, knowingly, under a penalty of five dollars.

Voted, That this meeting be adjourned till the first Tuesday in April, 1820, at ten o'clock a. m., at the village school house.

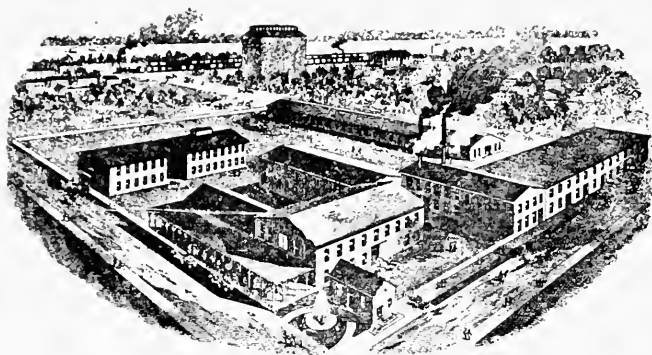
Horatio Reed, Town Clerk.

#### TOWN OFFICERS ELECTED IN 1894.

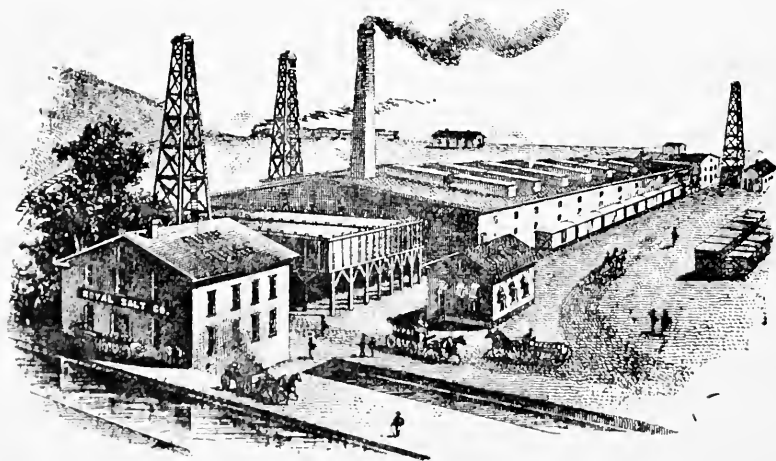
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John C. Witt, Supervisor; John F. Donovan, Town Clerk; W. M. Creveling, Justice of the Peace; Wm. Dickey, Collector; Robert Lavey, Commissioner of Highways; C. W. Ogden, Assessor; P. D. Jones, Excise Commissioner.





CANNING FACTORY.



ROYAL SALT WORKS.

## MANUFACTORIES.

The principle manufactories of Mount Morris, in 1894, are:

*The Allen Lumber Company*.—Established 1863 by Wm. P. Allen. Manufacturers of lumber, retailers and wholesale shippers. Albert Allen, proprietor; F. S. Thomas, manager.

*The Genesee Valley M'g Company*.—Succeeding the Bodine Manufacturing Company in 1880. Manufacturers of the Missouri Grain and Fertilizer Drill, Bodine Jonval Turbine Water Wheels, etc. W. A. Sutherland, President; S. L. Rockfellow, Vice-President and Superintendent; Wm. H. Coy, Treasurer; A. W. Smith, Secretary.

*The Canning Works*.—Established in 1878. Yearly output about two million cans. Winters & Prophet, Proprietors.

*The Royal Salt Company*.—Established in 1884. Capacity 600 barrels per day. John W. Young, President; John C. Winters, Vice-President and Superintendent; John M. Prophet, Secretary and Treasurer.

*Enterprise Flouring Mills*.—S. Bergen, Proprietor; Thomas Geary, head miller.

*Equity Flouring Mills*.—Roller process. Rebuilt in 1893. W. H. Humphry, Proprietor.

*Exchange Flouring Mills*.—Roller process. C. B. Galbraith & Sons, Proprietors.

*Empire Machine Works*.—Builders of Spoke Machines, Oscar Allen, manager.

*Mount Morris Illuminating Company*.—Established in 1890, by Mark D. Hanover.

*Two Broom Factories*.—F. C. Simerson is proprietor of one, and James Kellogg of the other.

THE VILLAGE PRESS.

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"*The Mount Morris Union*" is, so to speak, one of the landmarks of Mount Morris. It bears the distinction of being the oldest newspaper published in Livingston county, having been established in January, 1834, by Hugh Harding. It was then known as the "Mount Morris Spectator." Its name has since been changed several times, and it has also been under different management, but has always been conducted in the interest and welfare of Mount Morris. For a number of years previous to the fall of 1881, the paper, then known as "The Union and Constitution," had been owned and conducted by William Harding. In October of that year, Mr. Harding sold the plant to George S. Ellicott and John C. Dickey. The new firm changed the name of the paper to "The Mount Morris Union," its political color from Democratic to Republican, added considerable new material, and greatly improved the general appearance and character of the paper. Later on they put in a new cylinder press, the first one ever brought to Mount Morris; also an engine to operate their machinery by steam power. On November 1st, 1893, Mr. Dickey sold his interest to Mr. Ellicott by whom the paper has since been conducted.

"*The Mount Morris Enterprise*" was established March 4th, 1875, by George M. Shull and Adelbert H. Knapp, who were former residents of Dansville, N. Y. In September, 1877, Mr. Shull purchased Mr. Knapp's interest in the "Enterprise," and has been its editor and proprietor since that time. The paper, politically, has been Democratic since it was founded, yet never inconsistent. As to the best interests of the village and town, it has at all times endeavored to advocate and sustain every enterprise that would further its growth and prosperity.

CEMETERIES.

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The first cemetery in the town, was located a little to the south-west, of what was then the school house and church, and not far from where now stands the M. E. Church. We have no means of ascertaining when or by whom this cemetery was laid out, or who was first buried in it. It was probably used for about twenty years, or until 1818, when the growth of the village demanded its removal.

What we now call the Old Cemetery was opened for burial purposes in 1818, and Samuel Hopkins was the first to be buried there. The bodies in the former cemetery were, at that time, removed to this, which was then quite outside the village, and very pleasantly located on the hillside, and containing about two acres. For many years, the Presbyterian society held the deed of this land in trust for burial purposes, because that was the only incorporated society in the town; and not that they had any greater privileges or power of dictation, than others. In 1872, the Presbyterian society relinquished its trust of these grounds to the Cemetery Association of the village which has resulted very happily in securing their proper care and protection; so that we are able to assure all those who have removed to distant places, and have left with us the care of the graves of their loved ones, that the Old Cemetery is carefully guarded against any intrusions by unlawful burials, and having a good substantial fence, is kept neatly mowed two or three times a year. It has long been closed for burial purposes, excepting to a few of the old families. Its graves are honored, as containing the bodies of those who were pioneers in the settlement of this town and village.

MOUNT MORRIS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION.

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At a meeting of the citizens, held July 20th, 1859, it was decided to organize a cemetery association, in pursuance of an act of the Legislature passed April 29th, 1847; and that the corporate name should be "The Mount Morris Cemetery Association;" and that there should be twelve trustees.

At a subsequent meeting, held July 23d, 1859, the following persons were named as trustees: \*Reuben P. Wisner, Hiram P. Mills, \*Walter H. Noble, \*Reuben Sleeper, \*George W. Branch, \*Hiram H. Gladding, \*Justine Smith, \*Henry Swan, \*George Hastings, \*Clark B. Adams, \*Abraham Wigg, \*Norman Seymour, Jr. At a subsequent meeting of the trustees, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Reuben P. Wisner, President; Hiram P. Mills, Vice-President; Walter H. Noble, Secretary; Reuben Sleeper, Treasurer. A committee was appointed at this meeting to select a suitable site, which subsequently reported in favor of purchasing the present grounds, which were owned by Hiram P. Mills and Abraham Wigg, and located one mile west of Main street; being sixteen acres, at one hundred dollars per acre. The services of Mr. H. B. Allen, a civil engineer of Arcade, N. Y., were engaged, and the grounds surveyed, and a map made costing about \$400.

At a meeting of the trustees, held October 22, 1859, it was decided that dedicatory exercises should be held November 15, the proceedings of which we copy from the "Livingston Union" bearing date of November 23, '59:

"On Tuesday afternoon, 15th inst., the ceremonies of Dedication took place—a November sun never shone more bright and cheerful.—About half past one a large number of our citizens



were on the grounds. The exercises commenced by singing the following Hymn:—

Awhile they rest within the tomb  
In sweet repose till morning come!  
Then rise with joy to meet their God,  
And ever dwell in his abode.

Celestial dawn! triumphant hour!  
How glorious that awak'ning power,  
Which bids the sleeping dust arise,  
And join the anthems of the skies!

This weary life will soon be past,  
The ling'ring morn will come at last,  
And gloomy mist will roll away  
Before that bright unfading day.

Dedicatory prayer by Rev. Thos. L. Franklin, after which the audience left the field and proceeded to the Presbyterian church where the exercises were conducted as follows: Singing by the choir of the hymn, "O God, our help in ages past." Reading of the scriptures, by Rev. T. L. Franklin. Prayer, by Rev. L. Parsons, Jr.—Singing, by the choir. Dedication address, by Rev. Dr. Boardman of Rochester. This address was highly appropriate, and for about one hour held an attentive and appreciative audience. The theme was a delightful one and the orator displayed two strong qualifications seldom found in the pulpit, viz:—a logical mind combined with a poetic imagination. Concluding address, by R. P. Wisner, Esq., on the object and duties of the association.—Prayer and benediction by Rev. Mr. Harrington."

The first burial was that of Robert R. Conkey, aged 41, on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 1859, who, just one week prior to his funeral, was present on the grounds at their dedication.

The following, in addition to those already named, have served as Trustees: \*Loren J. Ames, \*McNeil Seymour, \*Charles L. Bingham, \*Zara W. Joslyn, \*Joseph Garlinghouse, Ozro Clark, Henry H. Scoville, \*Jacob A. Mead, H. E. Brown, \*Hathorn Burt, Hugh Harding, Orrin D. Lake, Warren Richmond, Levi Parsons, Byron Swett, A. O. Dalrymple, Myron H. Mills, \*Henry Povall, S. L. Rockfellow, E. B. Osborne.

The following is a list of the officers, and their terms of service: Presidents—Reuben P. Wisner, 1859 to 1863; George Hastings, 1863 to 1867; Clark B. Adams, 1867 to 1870; Hiram P. Mills, 1870 to present time. Vice-Presidents—Hiram P. Mills, McNeil Seymour, Henry Swan, Clark B. Adams, Loren J. Ames, R. P. Wisner, Z. W. Joslyn, Abraham Wigg, Norman Seymour, O. D. Lake. Secretaries—Walter H. Noble, 1859 to 1882; L. J. Ames, M. D., 1882 to 1891; Warren Richmond, 1891 to present time. Treasurers—Reuben Sleeper, 1859 to 1862; Charles L. Bingham, 1862 to 1893; H. E. Brown 1893 to present time. Superintendents—Abraham Wigg, 1860 to 1867; H. E. Brown, 1867 to present time. Sextons—H. Hunt, 1860 to 1868; Geo. Mattocks, 1868 to 1869; H. H. Gladding, 1869 to 1874; Thos. Harrison, 1874 to 1880 and 1881 to 1884; Porter Kellogg, 1880 to 1881, 1887 to 1890, 1891 to 1894; P. J. Kingston, 1884 to 1887, and 1890 to 1891; Charles H. Gladding, 1894 to present time.

On May 13, 1872, the association accepted a deed from the Presbyterian society of the Old Cemetery grounds, and assumed the care and direction of the same. This comprises all the real estate held by the association at the present time. The association receives moneys by will or otherwise, as an endowment, the interest of which is applied to the care of any specific lot. The total amount received from the sale of lots has been \$15,458.14. Disbursements have been as follows: Purchase

of land, \$1,600; surveys, maps, improvements, roads, fences, trees, vault, gateway and general care, \$12,458.14; leaving a balance invested in bond and mortgage of \$1,400. The association has never received donations from any source; and about two thirds of the lots remain unsold. The annual meeting of lot owners, for the election of trustees, is at the Genesee River National Bank, on the second Tuesday of June, at 7:30 p. m., which is followed immediately by the meeting of the Board of Trustees, for the election of officers and the transaction of business.

—\*Deceased.

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### ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY.

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On April 24, 1885, St. Patrick's congregation, through its trustees, Rt. Rev. B. J. McQuaid being present as Diocesan President of the Board, purchased of Mrs. E. Skillin, seventeen and seventy-four one-hundredths acres of land, on Murray street, for a cemetery. The consideration was \$4,379.61, and St. Patrick's Church property was mortgaged for the amount. The cemetery is now incorporated and known as St. Patrick's Cemetery. Situated, as it is, on a prominence overlooking our beautiful village of Mount Morris, and miles of the picturesque valley of the Genesee, its location is eminently suitable. And when laid out and its general appearance improved, according to design, it will form an ideal resting place for the remains of dear departed ones. The first burial, that of the infant child of Edward Kelley, took place on April 27, 1885, though the names of John Ellis, Mary Ann Dolan and Hannah Price, so appear on the cemetery register, as to convey the notion that they were buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery previous to the date of

the burial of Edward Kelley's child. The reason of it so appearing is, that these parties died while arrangements were being perfected for the purchase of the cemetery property, and their remains were placed in the vault of the Village Cemetery to await the purchase of St. Patrick's, in which they were soon afterwards buried. The cemetery was dedicated on September 5, 1886, by Rt. Rev. Bishop McQuaid, who also preached the dedication sermon. "The ownership of lots in St. Patrick's Cemetery, is subject to the rules and regulations of the said cemetery, to the discipline of the Roman Catholic Church, and to the rules of the Diocese of Rochester with respect to burials and funerals."

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### OTHER CEMETERIES.

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The Dutch Street Cemetery, which contains about an acre or more of ground, has long been used for burial purposes, but the date of its origin is not known. It is located on the east side of Dutch street, a mile north of Tuscarora, and opposite a lot where formerly stood a Dutch Reformed Church. On January 8, 1845, Jacob V. Brinkerhoof gave a quit claim deed of this land to Chauncey Hungerford, Asahel Northway and John Smith, as trustees of the burying ground, although it is known to have been used at that time for burial purposes, for quite a number of years.

The cemetery of Little Scipio is located less than a mile south of Tuscarora, and derives its name from the fact that all of the original settlers on that street, with one exception, came from the town of Scipio, Cayuga county, New York. This cemetery was laid out about the year 1830. It contains a large number of graves and is kept in good order.

# TUSCARORA AND VICINITY.

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BY F. A. NORTHWAY.

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What was known as the "Tuscarora Tract," which includes the present village and vicinity of Tuscarora, formerly called Brushville, and in the south-east corner of the town of Mt. Morris, was purchased by Luke Tieman, of Baltimore, Md., and in 1822 he appointed Charles H. Carroll as his agent for the sale of portions of the same. Sales were soon made, by means of articles, for said land; but many who purchased these articles never made the second payment, but followed the tide of emigration westward. Among the first to become permanent residents, in 1823, was Daniel P. Sedam, who purchased seventy-five acres just east of Tuscarora, and after making the first payment had only \$60 left with which to build a home for himself and wife. The first deed given for land in Tuscarora on record was to David Babcock and others in 1831. Prior to this, however, there were quite a number of residents, and a sawmill had been built by Messrs. Smith & Driscoll. Jared P. Dodge also had erected a fulling mill in 1826, a carding mill about 1830 and a sawmill a few years later. He proved to be one of the most influential men of the place; was a merchant for

twenty-five years, for a long time was Justice of the Peace, and Supervisor of the town for ten or more years in succession. Late in life he moved to Nunda where he died about 1890 at the age of 90 years. James J. Ammerman was another of the first settlers, coming from Cayuga county, N. Y., and locating his farm to the south of Tuscarora. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and I remember the fact of his securing his pension papers in 1856. He died in 1876. In 1823 Amos Hungerford settled on a farm a mile north of Tuscarora, and the following year his brother Chauncey settled on a farm just west of the aforesaid, where both lived to the close of their lives. Asahel Northway came in the year 1830 and erected the first framed dwelling house in the vicinity. He, as well as the Hungerfords, were from Coldbrook, Litchfield Co., Conn., and were known as Yankees. Northway held a number of town offices, and died in the year 1879. Samuel R. and Jacob Bergen came in the year 1826, but in a few years Samuel R. sold his land to Jacob who remained on his farm about a mile east of the village to the time of his death in 1890. He was deacon of the Presbyterian Church for over fifty years. Thomas Bodine purchased one hundred acres north-west of Tuscarora, but remained on it only a few years. Jacob VanArsdale came in the year 1830 and remained until his death. Abraham VanArsdale was also one of the first settlers.

The school in Brushville, called District No. 13, was organized in 1830. The first record of the number of scholars, which was in the year 1835, was one hundred and six, and the number, who were over five and under sixteen, was seventy-six. The school had been kept eleven months and three days, and the amount paid was \$127.42. In 1840, the district was divided on account of the large number of scholars; and all that part lying east and south of the creek, was assigned to a joint district,

which in part was in the town of Nunda. The first school house was in the south-west part of the village, on the road leading west. In 1842, a new school house was built, 26 by 36, at an expense of \$400, just north of the Methodist Church, where it still remains. The aforesaid church was never completed.

Dr. John H. Robinson was the first physician. Others of the first settlers were: J. H. Bowers, John Wheelock, Calvin Demon, who had a carding mill, Jacob Petrie, a blacksmith, and his two sons, William and Peter. William Petrie taught school as early as 1838, and for forty years afterwards. He was also Postmaster and Justice of the Peace. He put up the first warehouse and purchased grain. Nicholas Hall kept a hotel some fifty years ago. He had three sons, Isaac, Aaron and Lansing. Isaac Hall was a carpenter and contractor, and died but a few years ago. Aaron Hall was the only lawyer that Tuscarora ever possessed, but he removed to the west. Lansing Hall was blind, but received a liberal education, and was the author of several books. John and David LaRue were large land owners, and built the first hotel in 1841, which still remains. They had a sawmill and gristmill, the latter being run for many years by Mr. Hoyt. About 1860, they erected the present mill, now owned and occupied by the Miller Bros. Henry Rockfellow, father of S. L. Rockfellow, came from Hunterdon county, New Jersey, in 1825, and located on a farm two miles south-west from Tuscarora, where he remained until his death in 1863. His age was 82. John R. McArthur located a mile north-east of Tuscarora, in 1830, and built a sawmill. He was one of the best informed men in this locality. His three sons, William, James and Archibald, have become noted as builders and contractors.

# BROOKSGROVE AND VICINITY.

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BY B. S. COFFIN, OF MT. MORRIS, N. Y.

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In offering the following as the history of the south-west part of our town, we wish to acknowledge the aid given us by Jonathan M. Dake, now of Nunda, N. Y., who was born in Saratoga Co., N. Y., in 1815, and coming here with his parents in 1821, settled just south of the town line of Mt. Morris. Having always resided in this vicinity his recollection is clear and accurate. Next we would thank M. W. Brooks, who kindly placed in our hands papers and deeds from which we could gather actual dates. Lastly, Hon. O. D. Lake, now in his 90th year, who in 1830 moved with his parents and settled on the farm still owned by him, about half a mile east of the Ridge.

We have aimed not so much to write a complete history, as to name the first settlers upon each farm. All honor then to the first pioneers.

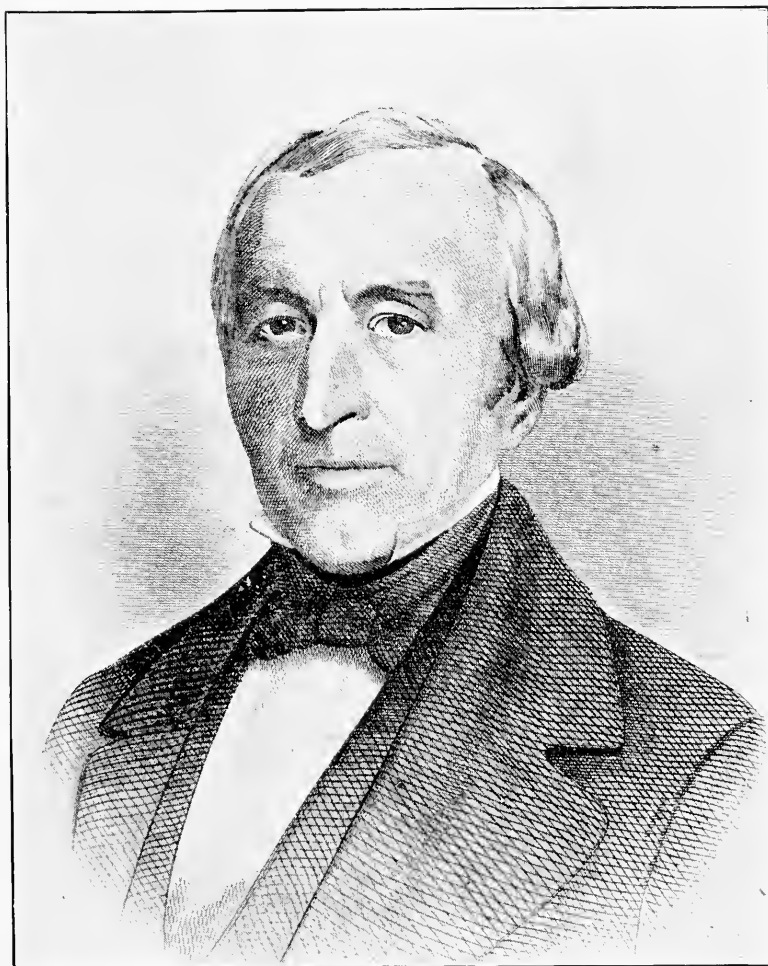
“Through the deep forests their axes did ring,  
From late in the Autumn till early in Spring.  
Far away office each year to the day,  
Oft traveled on foot their interest to pay.  
Time in its march, slow swept them away,  
Though oft not a stone marks the spot where they lay.  
Yet the good they have done will ever endure,  
While mem’ry rewards the brave and the pure.”



The first white owner, of most of the tract of land, of which we write, was Mary Jemison, the white woman of the Genesee, or "the old White Woman," called by the Seneca Indians, De-he-wa-mis. In 1779, when the Big Tree Treaty was held, she was sent for and allowed to make her own selection. In doing this, she embraced in her description, the Gardeau flats, where she had long resided. In 1798, Augustus Porter made a survey of it and found it to contain 17,927 acres. The large flat rock, on the north side of the road, from St. Helena to Castile, is the south-west corner; thence east substantially following the line of the road running to St. Helena, on this side of the river, to a point on lands now owned by the heirs of Emory Kendall, deceased, near the line of the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad; thence north to a point north of the Ridge, on lands now owned by Richard Williams; thence west to a point in the town of Castile; thence south to the place of beginning. This tract was more than six miles long from east to west, and nearly four and three-fourths miles wide, north to south. Red Jacket, the famous Indian chief, opposed the grant with all his eloquence, but all the other chiefs signed it, which is a positive proof of the high esteem in which she was held by the Indians. In 1811, Jellis Clute, Micah Brooks, and John B. Gibson commenced negotiations for a purchase of her lands. She was naturalized in 1817, by a special act of the legislature, to enable her to convey lands. In 1822, the sale to the above parties was consummated, with the exception of a small tract near her home. In 1874, her remains were removed to Portage, by the Hon. Wm. P. Letchworth, and after appropriate services in the old council house of the Senecas, were placed in a stone sarcophagus, sealed with cement and interred in a grave near by. A nice marble monument was erected, and the grave is curbed with stones, that were formerly placed

as headstones in the Indian burial ground at Gardeau, which had been plowed up and used in constructing a road culvert. Near by is her house, which was also removed to be preserved, by the same charitable hand. It is well that this was done, for the once large Gardeau flats have been encroached upon by the river, and probably in a few more seasons they will be like the famous White Woman, no more.

In 1822 the sale of the White Woman's land, as before stated, was consummated. John B. Gibson was a banker and resided at Canandaigua, N. Y. Jellis Clute lived on the other side of the river in the town of Leicester. Gen. Micah Brooks took up his residence in this town, and personally superintended the sale and settlement of the larger portion of the tract of which we write. Being a man of positive, yet liberal views, in all matters of public importance, he labored earnestly to promote the advancement of the Genesee country. It is fitting then, that a sketch of his life should prominently appear in the history of our town. He was born May 14th, 1775, in Cheshire, Conn. His father, Rev. David Brooks, who was a graduate of Yale College in 1765, upon invitation of Gen. David Wooster, delivered a sermon in 1774 at Derby, Conn., which was a powerful and stirring appeal to resistance to the oppression of Great Britain, which was printed and widely circulated among the colonies. In this sermon, he gave utterance to sentiments almost identical with those of the Declaration of Independence, two years later. Micah was the oldest of his father's family. Schools were few and poor, during the Revolution, and he received the advantages of but twelve months schooling; yet, making the most of his opportunities, books and time, he came to be an exceptionally well informed and distinguished type of the self-made man. In 1796 he first visited the Genesee country, walking all the way. He was so well pleased with it, that he made the journey again



GENERAL MICAH BROOKS.



on foot in 1797, and arriving at Deacon Bronson's in East Bloomfield, he introduced himself as a school teacher, and proposed that they should build a school house, and he would teach the school. The proposition was accepted, and a log school house was soon built, and filled with scholars. Returning to Connecticut in the summer, he took a course in surveying with Prof. Meigs of Yale College, and received a certificate from the court of New Haven county, appointing him "Surveyor within and for said county." Coming back to his log school house, in the fall of 1798, he again taught the school, and had several scholars who studied surveying. In the spring of 1799 he purchased a farm in East Bloomfield and immediately commenced clearing it. In 1800 he was associate commissioner with Hugh McNair and Mathew Warner to lay out a road from Canandaigua to Olean, and also one from Hornellsville to the mouth of the Genesee. He went back to Connecticut in the winter and taught school there, and came back to Bloomfield in 1801, bringing with him two sisters, who kept house for him in a cabin which he had prepared; but as they soon married he went back again to Connecticut, where, on December 13th, 1802, he married Mary, daughter of Deacon A. Hall, of Lyme, Conn. In 1806 he was appointed to the office of Justice of the Peace by Gov. Morgan Lewis. In 1808 he was assistant Justice of the county of Ontario, and the same year was elected to the Legislature, taking his seat in January, 1809, Daniel D. Tompkins being governor. Already enlisted with Myron Holley (Hercules) in discussing the practicability of a canal from the Hudson to Lake Erie, he called upon the governor and DeWitt Clinton, armed with the Genesee Messenger, containing Mr. Holley's articles, and tried without avail, to interest them in the project. But his earnest efforts were destined to bear fruit, for DeWitt Clinton, a few years afterwards, became the earnest promoter

and is now styled the Father of the Erie Canal. During the war of 1812 he served in three campaigns, on the Niagara frontier, as Lieutenant-Colonel. In the militia he rose to the rank of Major-General.

In 1814, he was elected to Congress, and represented all Western New York, west of Cayuga Lake. Here he presented an extensively signed petition, which was drawn by DeWitt Clinton, asking the general government to assist in the construction of the Erie canal. It was referred to a select committee, of which he was chairman, and Daniel Webster and Henry Clay were members. A favorable report was made, and a bill passed both houses; but it was vetoed by the President, James Madison. This was one of the greatest disappointments of his life, and he was ever afterwards an opponent of the veto power. Through his efforts, while in Congress, the first government mail service through Rochester was established. In 1821, he was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention. In 1822, the purchase was made of the old White Woman, and in 1823, the lands were offered for sale, Elisha Johnson having previously subdivided them. In 1827, he made arrangements with Moses Marvin, to build for him a sawmill on this side of the Genesee river, on lands now owned by James McHerron, a short distance north and opposite of the old White Woman's residence. The irons and machinery of the same were bought in Utica, New York, and brought by wagons here. The settlers, being anxious to secure lumber for their buildings, had voluntarily aided in digging the race, and the sidehill was covered with logs to be sawed. When the day came to start the mill, they all assembled for a gala day, the water was let into the race and cheered as it flowed along; it reached the ponderous wheel, and turning it half way round, stood still. There was not enough descent to carry it off. It was a day of great dis-

appointment to the whole community, and General Brooks could never be induced to try again to build a mill.

In March, 1825, his wife died. She was the mother of two sons, and five daughters; two of whom are still living, M. W. Brooks, who resides upon the old homestead at Brooksgrove, and Cornelia, wife of George Ellwanger, of the firm of Ellwanger & Barry, of Rochester, N. Y. In 1832, Gen. Brooks came to this town and took up his residence in what was afterwards named in honor of him, Brooksgrove. In 1833, he was again married, his second wife being Miss Elizabeth Chattin, of Salem, New York. She was a sister of Mrs. General Mills, of Mount Morris, and died in 1863. During the decade, 1830-1840, the construction of the Genesee Valley canal was discussed, its route surveyed and work let. This project, and the enlargement of the Erie canal, found in General Brooks a warm supporter. February 1, 1839, he presided over a great railroad convention at Cuba, N. Y., and his address before that body was distinguished for sound reasoning, remarkable foresight, and clear perceptions, and was very generally published in the papers of Western New York, and did much to stimulate thought and effort, which resulted, not many years thereafter, in the construction of the Erie Railway. He freely gave land for school house and church sites, and was always a liberal supporter of the same. July 7, 1857, while sitting in his chair, he leaned back and died without a struggle.

The first road in this whole section was surveyed in 1788, and was designed as the Eastern boundary of the Phelps and Gorham purchase, running from the Pennsylvania line to Lake Ontario, due north. Besides blazing the trees, sharpened stakes were set up at intervals, which gave it the name of "Picket Line." Owing to the steepness of the bank of the river, where it crossed at Gibsonville, it was never made a roadway the

whole distance, but is still the town line between Nunda and Portage, and between towns in Allegany county; and the county line between Wyoming and Livingston, after crossing the river. After surveying, more land was found than their grant called for, and going several miles west a parallel line was run, called the "Transit Line," which was the eastern line of the Holland purchase. Major Moses VanCampen is believed to have laid out the State road from Mount Morris to Angelica, at an early date. The other roads were changed many times by the commissioners, especially the River road. Before the lands were offered for sale, many persons had squatted upon them and built log houses.

Commencing on the State road, at the town line, the first settlers and owners were as follows, in the order named: Wm. Mosher, Mr. Wood, John and Hiram Prentice, Dean M. Tyler, James McCartney, Wm. Chandler, and Micah Brooks. These were south of Brooksgrove. North, we have, John Carr, Elias Rockfellow, Geo. Babcock, Henry Hoffman, Samuel Phillips, Henry Davis, Geo. Williams, Sr., Dr. W. D. Munson, Robert Williams, Jacob VanDorn, Dow Andrews, Daniel Perrine, Benjamin Hoaglan, Wm. C. Dunning, Hosea Fuller, Joseph Ackers, David O. Howell, Mr. Brown, Benjamin Sherman, Orrin Hall, James Rolland, Sylvester Darrien, William D. Morgan, Ephriam Sharp, George Burekhart, Edwin Stilson, and Eben Stilson, which brings us to the Ridge. East of the Ridge were Orrin Sacket, Elder W. Lake, and J. Phillips, and a little to the south, Sylvester Richmond. Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. Richmond, both over eighty, are still living. North of the Ridge were Humphrey and Henry D. Hunt, Wm. Williams, Thos. Wisner, who kept a hotel in the building now owned by the heirs of Geo. W. Barney, and Moses Marvin. The first settler on the river road, north of the town line, on the place now



owned by Frederick Marsh, was George Wilson. His son Thomas, in 1824, built a sawmill on the Genesee river, in the big bend south of St. Helena, which is believed to have been the first mill erected in the town. On the east side of the road, Deacon Wm. L. Totten was the first settler. He was the father of Thompson, Levi, George, Joseph, Hector and Philetus Totten, all of whom became prominent men of our town. He had a tannery and shoe shop, which were erected previous to 1820, and are believed to have been the first in the town. The first farm west, on the north-west corner of the road leading to St. Helena, was settled by Wm. Gray. North of his house, the first burial place of the section was laid out, and about fifty persons were buried there, which, however, was soon abandoned, owing to the establishment, in 1839, of the present cemetery of Oak Hill, in which Wm. Mosher was the first person buried. This cemetery has been enlarged several times, and has always been well cared for, and now contains several hundred graves and many costly monuments. Elisha Mosher was the first settler on the road running from Oakland to the river road, north of the town line. Next, Noah and Reuben Roberts and then William Swan. Thence on the river road, we have Benjamin Sheppard, on the west; on the east, Horatio Reed, who was blind, and our first Town Clerk. His son, Charles, settled near Princeton, Ill., and was for several terms a member of the legislature of that State. Next, north, was William Miller, who had a large family, and five of them, grown up sons and daughters, died within a few days of each other, and were buried in the now abandoned ground. On the west, Isaac Bovee, then Isaac and James Miller, Wm. Bailey, Luke Conway, Wm. Dake, and Joseph Thorp. This brings us to the River Road Forks. North, we have Daniel Ellsworth, who erected and kept a store for years at the Forks, Pattie Brown, Ansel Owen,

who built and kept a hotel, long known as the Half-way House, between Mount Morris and Portage, Jabez Whightman, who built and kept the hotel, afterwards long kept by Alanson Janes, James Ward, Chauncey Tyler, Deacon Israel Herrick, Samuel Clady, Jonah Craft, Wm. G. Wisner, Barney Criss, Garrett VanArsdale, O. Thorp and Jacob VanArsdale. Henry Crane, a resident of Springport, Cayuga county, bought the next place, now known as the Tallman homestead, where he located his son-in-law, Aaron Rosekrans, on the next he placed his son James, on the next his son Joseph, and on the next his son John, while Henry Jr., was given the farm now owned by David George. The son, John, was killed by a falling tree, and Justine Smith, deceased, purchased the first of these places of the heirs, and Ellis Putnam the last.

Next was Joseph Barnes, James VanSickle and sons, John and Henry, and son-in-law Wm. Hoyt, Jessie B. Jones, Lucius Brown and Eben Sturges. The first settler on the Picket Line road, north of the town line, was Samuel Mosher, then in their order, Ruslin Hark, Jacob Kilmer, George Bump, Ovid Hemp-hill, Christopher Haines, and Solomon Wood, the latter on the farm now owned and occupied by the heirs of Norman Foote. Mr. Wood had a hat shop, which is believed to have been the first in town. Next, Martin Pixley, Jonathan Miller, and Pelleg Coffin. The latter walked, in 1822, from Saratoga county, New York, with a knapsack on his back, looking for a home in the Genesee Country. He passed over the ground where now is the city of Rochester, and fearing the malaria of the river flats, selected his home on the Picket Line. Returning to Saratoga county, in March of the following year, he started with an ox team and sleigh, with his wife and all they possessed, for their western home. There being no snow in Cayuga county, they exchanged their sleigh for a lumber wagon. On arriving at the Forks, they spent a day in clearing the road, so that they could

get to their place, a mile south. Next, Alexander Blood, Asahel Thayer, and David Whightman.

The first settler, on the Short Tract road, north of the town line, is only remembered by his sudden death, from poison sumach; which resulted in the raising of ten dollars, with which to pay Joseph Carter, for its complete extermination in the entire neighborhood. Next was Benjamin Dake, then Wm. Miller and Otis Denvey. The rest of the land, upon this road to Brooksgrove, was long retained by Gen. Brooks. These early settlers erected nearly all the buildings, still standing on their respective places, between 1835 and 1845. "The antique oven constructed near by, where baked the corn-bread and the thick pumpkin pie." These were superseded by the large brick oven, constructed inside the house and connected with the large chimney, with its broad, open fire place. They also corduroyed the roads over marshy places, where the ends of the logs can still be seen. The school districts of this section are about the same as when first established, except that the VanSickel district was joined to the Ridge, and district No. 12 was formed on the Picket Line, from a part of the Forks and Brooksgrove districts of this town, and some farms from the town of Nunda. From the record of the Forks district, since 1828, which is before me, it appears that the furnishing and preparing of fuel was let to the lowest bidder, for such sums as \$2.45, \$2.49 and \$2.50; and that the total expense of the school, in 1833, for eleven months, was \$76.06, as follows: Alanson Slater, teacher, winter term, \$61.50; Lucy M. Russel, teacher, summer term, \$12.07; Luke Coney, wood, \$2.49. The number of pupils, in 1837, was one hundred; three families in the district having ten children each.

Among those who have taught school in the districts of this section, and who boarded around, we mention, H. G. Winslow,

afterwards principal of the Mt. Morris academy; Joseph Weller, afterwards governor of California; Joseph McCreary, afterwards a prominent preacher; Addison Crane, a prominent lawyer and member of the legislature of Illinois; Gideon Draper, afterwards one of the Regents of common schools of this State; Dr. E. P. Miller, now of New York City; T. J. Gamble, Esq., and Byron Swett, of our town.

In 1849, the M. E. Society, at the Ridge, purchased their present church edifice of the Baptists, in which they have generally maintained religious services, but have had but few settled pastors, and have been supplied from Mt. Morris. From the steeple of this church, on a clear day, one can see with the naked eye, places in seven different counties.

The Protestant Methodists formed a society at Brooksgrove, about 1840, and the present church edifice was built in 1844-45. Rev. Short was their pastor when the church was built. They have always maintained a settled pastor, and for many years were counted as the strongest church, of the denomination, in Western New York.

Through the efforts of the pioneer M. E. preacher, Rev. John B. Hudson, a Methodist society was organized, early at River Road Forks.

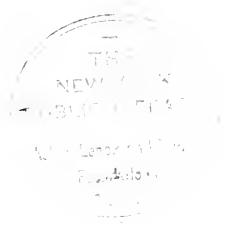
In 1828, the Baptists organized a society in the south part of the town. Rev. Wm. G. Wisner, a cousin of R. P. Wisner, Esq., was their pastor in 1835. Through his efforts a church was built, on the south-east corner of the intersection of the Oakland and St. Helena roads, about a half mile north of the town line. The society numbered at that time about eighty, and was the second Baptist church erected in the town. Previous to the erection of this church, the Baptist and Methodist societies held their services, on alternate sabbaths, in the Forks and Portage school houses. In 1837, a powerful revival took

place in this vicinity; ninety persons joining the Methodist class, and sixty being baptized one Sunday in the river at St. Helena, by the pastor, Rev. Robbins. These societies continued harmonious until March, 1844; when the Methodists, having procured the use of the church for their Quarterly Meeting, while holding their love-feast, with closed doors, Benjamin Dake, then a trustee, unlocked the doors and bid the people on the outside to enter. This act broke up the peace of the whole community, and destroyed much of the influence of these religious societies. Both of them declined from this date, and their members afterwards joined their respective churches at Nunda. The church edifice is now a cider mill at Oakland.

The Rev. John B. Hudson refers to the meager pay of the ministers of this early date, \$100 per year. I well remember the Reverends John and Robert Parker, and Rev. A. Farrel, who always spread down his handkerchief to kneel upon in prayer. They were always welcomed by the members, and often would stay several days with their whole families.

The first post-office, established about 1824, in this section, was about a mile south of the Ridge, on the place now owned by Howdin Covey, its name was "Leona." The next was kept in the log house, still standing on the river road, on the farm now owned by Jacob Tallman. This was called the River Road post-office, and the postmaster was David Lake. The next was established about 1830, and the name chosen was River Road Forks. The mail was carried by post boys between Mount Morris and Portage on the river road, daily. In 1830, the office, "Leona" was removed by Dr. Wm. D. Munson, then postmaster, to Brooksgrove and the name changed accordingly. About this time, the River Road post-office was removed and the name changed to Ridge. An early stage route was owned and run for many years by Wm. Martin, the large four horse stage

making daily trips from Mount Morris to Angelica, and carrying the mail. The River Road Forks office was discontinued about 1860, the patrons now getting their mail at Nunda or Mount Morris. The mail is now carried from the Ridge to Mount Morris, and from Brooksgrove to Nunda. In 1840, the hamlet of the Ridge consisted, besides the church and school house, of a store, two blacksmith shops, two wagon shops, a shoe shop, and about ten houses. That of Brooksgrove, besides the church and school house, of a store, hotel, blacksmith shop, wagon shop, tailor shop, and twelve houses. Brooksgrove also had, for many years, a resident physician. The Forks supported two stores, two hotels, two wagon shops, two blacksmith shops and three shoe shops. There were five hotels between Mount Morris and Nunda, and six between Mount Morris and Portage.





UNION FREE SCHOOL



## DEDICATION OF UNION SCHOOL HOUSE.

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H. H. Seymour, Esq., of Buffalo, has placed in our hands an article from the Mount Morris Union and Constitution, of April 22, 1880, found among his father's papers, respecting the dedication of our Union School, from which we give portions of a letter from H. G. Winslow as follows:

RACINE, WIS., April 12, 1880.

DR. L. J. AMES—My Dear Sir: Your kind letter to me, containing an invitation to be present at the opening ceremonies of your new school house, and to participate in the same, came duly to hand, for which, please accept my thanks.

I cannot tell you how much I should enjoy being with you on that, to me, peculiarly interesting occasion, and how much pleasure it would give me, to take by hand the kind friends of days long gone by, to look them once more in the face, and to hold pleasant converse over the past, as well as over the present; dropping the tear of regret over the graves where so many noble hearts that then beat high in all our plans and labors, now sleep the silent sleep of death.

In the fall of 1843, fresh from college and full of high hopes and courage, I seemed directed to Mount Morris, to find my task. A stranger in a strange land; the old Eagle Hotel, and its worthy host, Riley Scoville, gave me a wayfarer's welcome. Much to my discouragement, I found that no one expected me,

and the town was full of schools; four district schools then existed in what our old friend, Joe McCreary, (a teacher of one of them) called "Mt. Morris" and Millingar, the latter precinct being the old glass factory and its adjuncts, on the flats to the north of town, and as many more private schools sought the patronage of the generous public. But, I was on the ground with not money enough to get away, and must need stay. I found a home in the pleasant family of Mrs. Mason, whose kindness and care then made it a home to me. I opened a school in the old brick building known as the Dean building. Six scholars rallied around me—boys and girls—to them I gave my faithful attention. One of them now graces one of Mount Morris' finest homes. Well, we made a good record, and scholars came to us. My old friend, McNeil Seymour, held forth in our old school house, in the south part of the town. R. F. Howes ruled the central brick school house, a little west from the Eagle Hotel. Joe McCreary held sway, I think, in a school house north of the High school house. It soon became apparent to many of the best minds in Mount Morris, that the success of educational enterprise, was all being frittered away, in this divided and scattered effort at progress; and that some plan must be adopted, whereby all might unite for the well-being of all. During the fall and winter of 1844 and '45, meetings were held, and discussions carried on, which resulted in building the Union school house, so lately torn down, and establishing therein a Union school.

About the first of November, 1845, the first floor of the school house was ready for occupancy, and one bright and glorious morning we assembled there, teachers and pupils, to mark a new era in Mount Morris' school life.

I occupied the room on the south of the hall, Miss Emily Bradley, in the north-east corner, and Miss Ellen Fisk in the

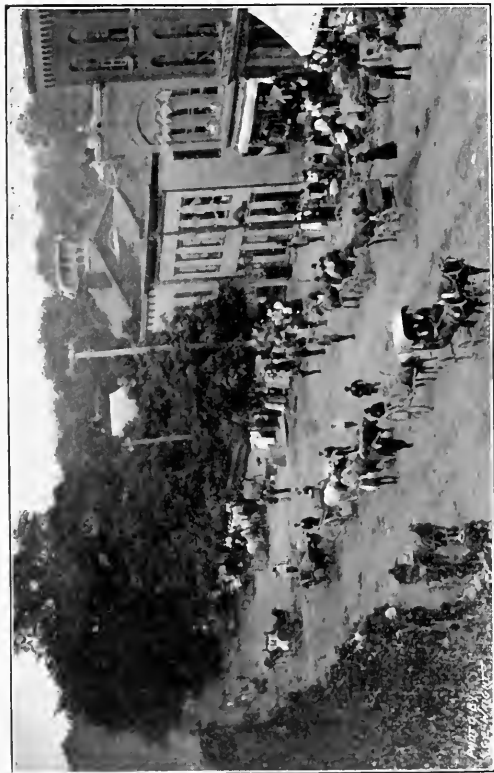
north-west corner, and Miss M. Jane Church in the recitation room up stairs as my assistant. No man, in such a position ever had a purer, truer, nobler, better corps of assistants than I had, in the persons of these young ladies. Now, alas! all gone to their last long home; but surely their works do live after them, and many and many a man and woman, who, as school children enjoyed their faithful labors, and loving care, owe many of their best aspirations and worthiest achievements to their training. There swarmed in upon us a crowd of boys and girls, untrained and undisciplined, but many of them hungry for knowledge, and willing to work, if only controlled by a strong hand, and guided by a true love and appreciation of the great work.

In the spring of 1846, we made a "bee" to procure shade trees. Hon. George Hastings went with a party down on the Canaseraga flats, and procured those beautiful elms that now grace the grounds. George S. Williams and I went to the "Hog's Back," up the river, and another party went to "Allen's Glen" in the south part of the village, and that day's work of unpaid labor, gave the school all of those beautiful trees that ornament the grounds. Our boys of those days were very careful of those trees, and none were ever willfully injured. After the opening of the large room, every seat was soon filled, and our usual number in the higher department ranged from 130 to 150 scholars, in all branches of study, Greek, Latin, French, all the sciences, higher mathematics; and the common branches were never overlooked. Every scholar, even in the High School, must read, write and spell every day, as a stated exercise, and very few of them ever permanently laid aside grammar and arithmetic. Of course, in the start of such a school, the elements of discord and disturbance were many and varied. The pupils ranged from a large class of young ladies and gentle-

men to scores of rude boys and girls, little used to restraint or discipline, careless of mental culture, undeveloped in moral feelings, or social manners, whose sole idea seemed to be to get through the school days, with as much fun and frolic as possible, and as little real mental labor as would clear them from discipline. In this emergency, I found much valuable and effective help in the true and loyal band of students, trained to order and study in the Academy. The amount of real school labor, demanded of the teachers in such a school, was very large indeed, and tested our strength to the utmost. My rule was that everything must be done, and of course all that was not done by others, I must and did do.

At the end of three years of such labor, I found that a change must be made, and no other plan presented itself, but for me to retire, try to recuperate, and seek other fields of usefulness, which I accordingly did in the fall of 1848; and broken in health and spirits and bankrupt in purse, in the fall of 1849 I took my way over the hills to Nunda. I little thought that my five years in Mount Morris, with the three years at the head of the Nunda Literary Institute, would constitute my life work so far as the great public were concerned, but so it proved. Often regrets will arise, as I look back over those years of toil and triumph, that I ever consented to take the position and to give to it the best years of my life, and I can only console myself now with the thought that that must have been my appointed work, and that I would have been recreant to have refused.





CENTENNIAL PARADE.

## BUSINESS FIRMS.

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In addition to the manufactories already given, the business of Mount Morris is represented at the present time as follows:

Dry Goods.—Hudson Brothers, Wiltsie & Gore.

Hardware.—E. B. Osborne, W. H. Nott.

Druggists.—Henry W. Miller, Dalrymple & Vanderbilt.

Grocers.—Wiltsie & Gore, W. D. Pitt, A. Wasson, Moore Bros., T. C. Steele, Fred Beuerlein, Wm. McCarty.

Millinery.—Beggs & Co., K. O'Donnell.

Markets.—Sawyer Bros., C.A. Sherman & Co., Landers Bros.

Books and Stationery.—Chas. Harding, Eugene Ferris.

Jewelers.—Richmond & Conklin, Eugene Ferris.

Clothing.—Barney Beuerlein, Standard Clothing Co., Nast Brothers.

Furniture Dealers.—F. W. Woolever, A. Harris.

Cigar Manufactories.—John F. Donovan, H. Gormley, Wm. H. Swan.

Merchant Tailors.—Smith & Empey, W. W. Harrison.

Blacksmiths.—O. C. Matteson, Wm. Mate, Terrence Dolan.

Wagon Makers.—I. T. Hollister, J. Samhammer.

Bottlers.—Dennis & Co.

Bakers.—A. J. Crissy, Henry Burgey, W. H. Leddick.

Barbers.—P. Wagner, L. L. W. Shaw, John Osborn.

Painters.—A. McArthur, J. Sickles, H. Hollister, William Elliott, James Sickles.

Printers & Publishers.—George M. Shull, George S. Ellicott.

Implement Dealers.—C. F. Braman, A. M. Baker & Son.

Liveries.—J. S. McNeilly, John Burtis.

Boots and Shoes.—Wiltsie & Gore, F. Beuerlein, M. Beuerlein, Nast Bros.

Coal.—Wm. H. Swan, A. Ayrault, E. C. Seymour, F. W. Woolever.

Produce Buyers.—A. Ayrault, Ferrin Brothers.

Harness Makers.—Thos. Conlon, L. M. Comfort, E. A. Kemp.

Shoemakers.—John Gorman, John Tager, H. Claxton, F. Grover, Wm. R. Annis.

Photographer.—James Lennon.

Dentists.—F. D. Brown, C. J. Mills, W. H. Povall.

Tin Smith.—A. Kelsall.

Laundries.—John Brownell, Charley Lee.

Hotels.—H. H. Scoville, Scoville House; J. W. Fisher, Genesee House; J. Milliman, American; R. Burke, Burke House.

Restaurants.—H. Wagner, Wm. Leddick.

Banks.—Genesee River National Bank, Bingham Brothers Bankers.

Railroads.—Delaware Lackawanna & Western, New York Lake Erie & Western, Western New York & Pennsylvania, Dansville & Mount Morris.

## PROFESSIONS.

Clergy.—Levi Parsons, D. D., L. D. Chase, A. E. Whatham, M. W. Hart, James H. Day.

Lawyers.—T. J. Gamble, J. M. Hastings, J. F. Connor, W. I. VanAllen.

Doctors.—J. M. Hagey, F. B. Dodge, J. C. Earle, A. L. D. Campbell, A. E. Leach.

Veterinary Surgeon.—C. C. Willard.





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